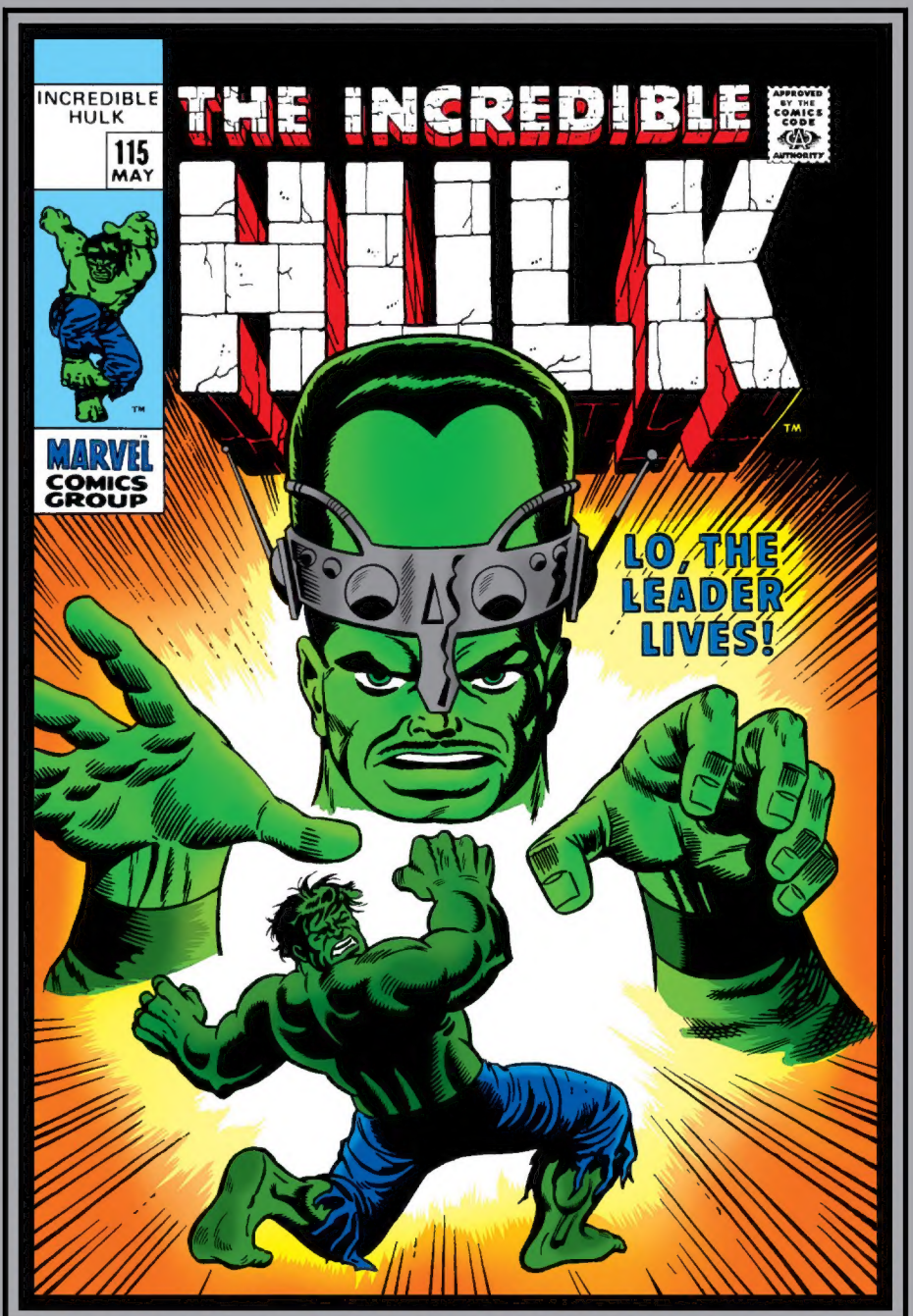
MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
VOLUME 5



THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 111-121

STAN LEE & HERB TRIMPE

WITH ROY THOMAS

MARVEL

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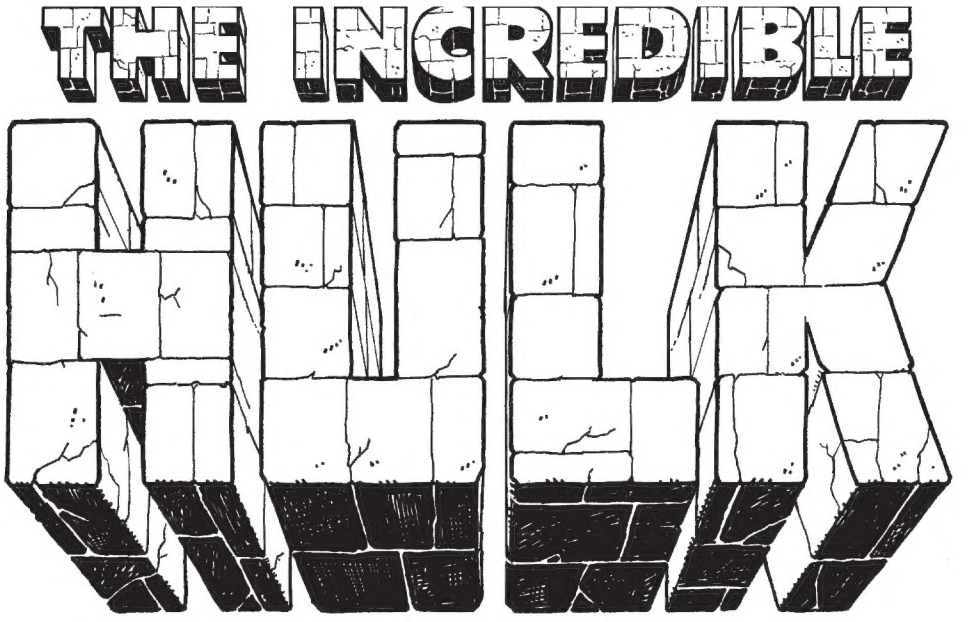
PRESENTS



VOLUME 5

COLLECTING

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 111-121

STAN LEE • HERB TRIMPE

WITH ROY THOMAS

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Nos. 111-121

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INTRODUCTION
BY HERB TRIMPE

Well, Cory Sedlmeier has done it again. He asked me to write an introduction to the latest conglomeration of comics featuring the Incredible Hulk, issues #111 through #121. Up until recently, whenever I looked through those worn and torn vintage Hulk tales, I had but one thought: I wanted to draw them again. This was in spite of the fact, and as everyone pretty well knows, you can't go back. But, I really didn't want to go back, I just wanted to draw the darned things over again. Why? To make them *right.* To make the drawing *better.* It made me want to cry.

Unfortunately, there's no crying in comics. You do what you do, it's over and done, and you move on to the next thing. In the movies, there's the director's cut—another way to sell the movie again, and also a way for the director to correct "mistakes." Like *Blade Runner,* one of my all-time favorite movies, and they screw it up with a "directors cut." I hated when they did that. And yet, I wanted to do a "directors cut" to my own work!

I came to Marvel straight out of the military. It wasn't easy. No portfolio, no samples, and not much sense to go with it. I had been turned down at DC. I was not hip, as they would say in the '60s, to what was going on in the comics business. I came into Marvel's hallowed halls (in reality, a dinky office space inside the parent company, Magazine Management), not at all humble, though not arrogant either, but totally oblivious to the giants who I would be working next to: John Romita, Marie Severin, John Buscema, Gene Colan, Dick Ayers, Vince Colletta, Don Heck, Bill Everett, Syd Shores, Jack Kirby, and on and on it went, not to mention The Man himself, Stan Lee. I realized right away, that I was not in the same league as any of these guys. Still, Stan hired me. With that a done deal, I proceeded, after some time spent doing this and that, to become intimately associated with the *Incredible Hulk* for the next eight years.

As I mentioned before, until recently, I would have loved to redraw the issues appearing in this volume. Issue #111 was a very early experience between the Hulk and myself. Make no mistake—if I were to redraw #111, I would change very little in the storytelling or the layouts. It's the drawing I would focus on. Witness the cover to #111. The Hulk is strangely twisted with some unusual anatomy to say the least, and he has no eyeballs! The splash in #111 shows an odd fellow with his hand outstretched in dramatic fashion. This is a gesture which more than a few have made fun of because of the frequency of its occurrence—even when such a gesture was not at all necessary. Check it out for yourself.

Issue #112 sports many an outstretched hand, including double outstretched hands on story page ten. I won't even go into the gnome-like persona the Hulk has taken on, with the enlarged head, and still no eyeballs. The next issue is more of the same except for Banner, who, on story page two, as well as the cover (note outstretched hand, for crying out loud), does exhibit what looks like eyeballs—a rare occurrence so far. In #114, very little eyeball is shown except for Betty Ross and the Mandarin. Was there a hidden meaning there? I hope not. As far as #115 goes, examining the layouts of story pages two and three would seem to indicate I had just read the latest Steranko *Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* Other than that, it is business as usual.

Issue #116 is highlighted by one of my trademarks—an unsexy female who happened to be a key character in Banner's romantic life—namely, Betty Ross. Someone once asked me how I got past the Comics Code with a scene that showed Ms. Ross in her natural state. "Easy," I said. "I can't draw sexy women."

Uh, oh, here comes my scratchy pen technique trying to emulate John Severin's style in issue #117. I kept it up through issue #118 featuring Subby, and if I do say so myself, Lady Dorma on story page two is not a bad rendering. Nice layouts, too, but in this story I playfully printed the word "Mattel" on the hull of the submarine. Stan did not laugh. I got a pretty good chewing out for giving the mega toy company free advertising. In #119, I glided neatly from the Severin influence into some Jack Davis-style rendering. This is shamelessly evident on the cover, cross-hatching and all. But, if the big panel on story page 10 isn't a Jack Kirby steal, I don't know what is.

Down to the wire, issue #120 is more of the same Trimpe style from that period, highlighted by a classic Hulk tank-heaving scene and some jet planes that I made up. I made up all the aircraft in the Hulk issues I drew (and me an airplane nut), except for the twin-engine propeller-driven airplane that is introduced on story page three. I used reference for that one. Don't ask me why. The tanks and other hardware are, and always were, generic.

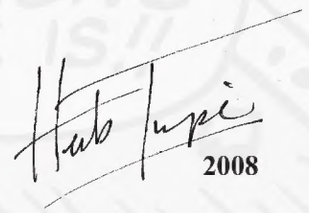
Crossing the finish line, *Hulk* #121 continued to fit the profile of strange and awkward figure drawing, but good layouts and storytelling. I did a cover recreation of #121 recently, which I defy anyone to tell from the original—from distance of about ten feet. It ain't easy copying the same mistakes for the sake of a sale. Which brings me back to my original thought of returning to the scene of the crime and making things *better.*

Fortunately, this is out of the question. I thank the Cosmic Force for that—and especially for the comic fans who have read those stories of bygone days. They have turned my thinking around.

A couple of years ago, my wife encouraged me to accept invitations to comic-book shows, reasoning that I had worked in the business so long, I owed it to myself to reconnect and to own that which I had chosen to do for lo those many years. I did so, and what finally sunk into my thick skull, was that hundreds, if not thousands, of comic book fans *loved* the stories I drew. And worse than that, they *loved* the style that I had grown to dislike (I won't use the word hate.) Many a dear comic-book folk described emotionally to me how meaningful these stories had been to them. I'm sure many artists and writers in this crazy business have heard these same sentiments, but when you experience it for yourself, it is mind-blowing. One fellow described to me how a particular issue I had drawn had *saved his life!* How does a guy who worked to make deadlines and get the paychecks respond to that? I was flabbergasted, and I continue to be flabbergasted by the many thanks I have received for the work that I have done.

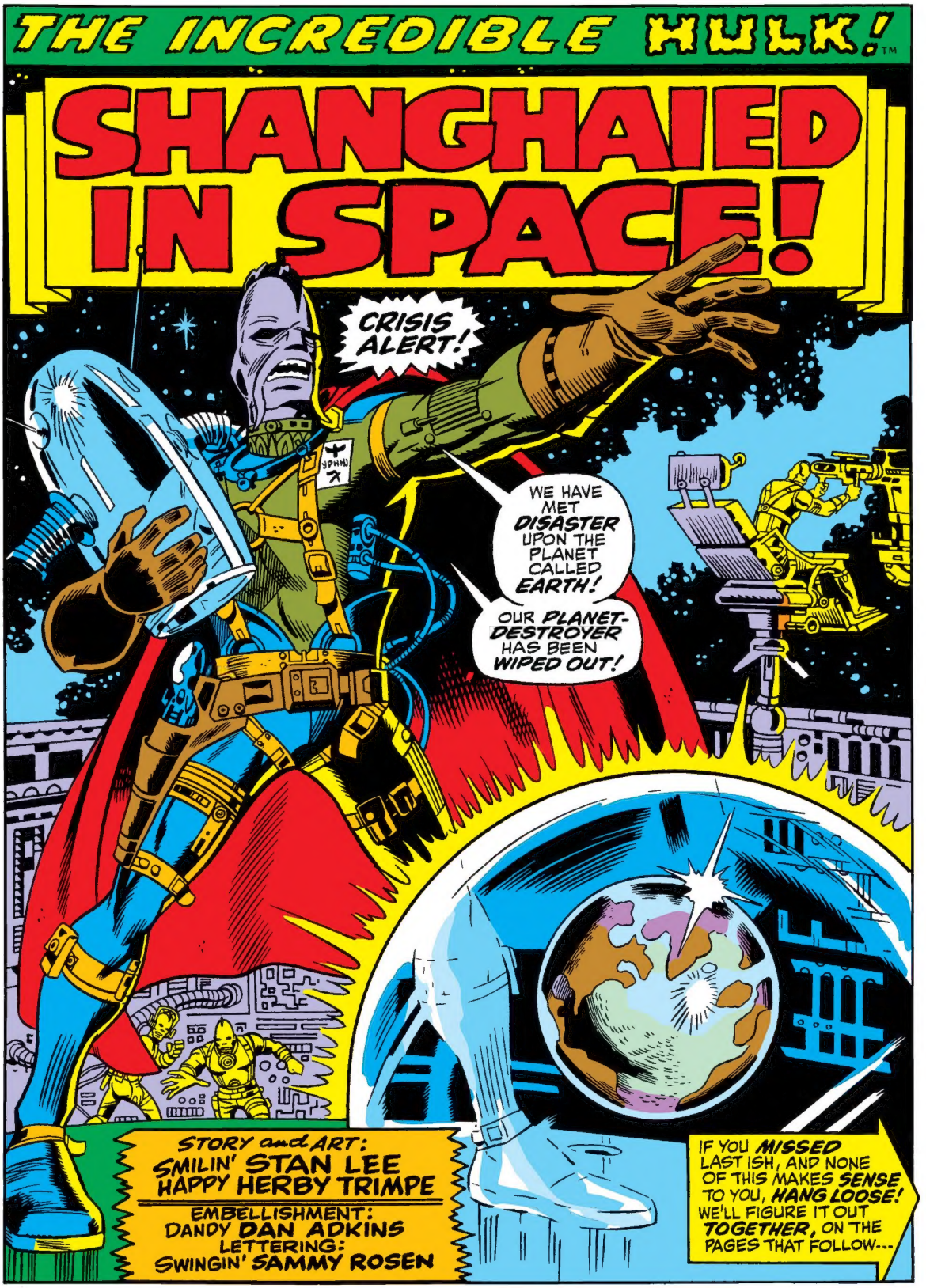
As a result, I no longer care to redo what has already been done. And, I had to ask myself a question: Who has benefited the most? These True Believers have sent my kids to college, put food in our mouths, a roof over our heads, and encouraged me to appreciate my own work. I ask you. Who has the greatest debt of gratitude?

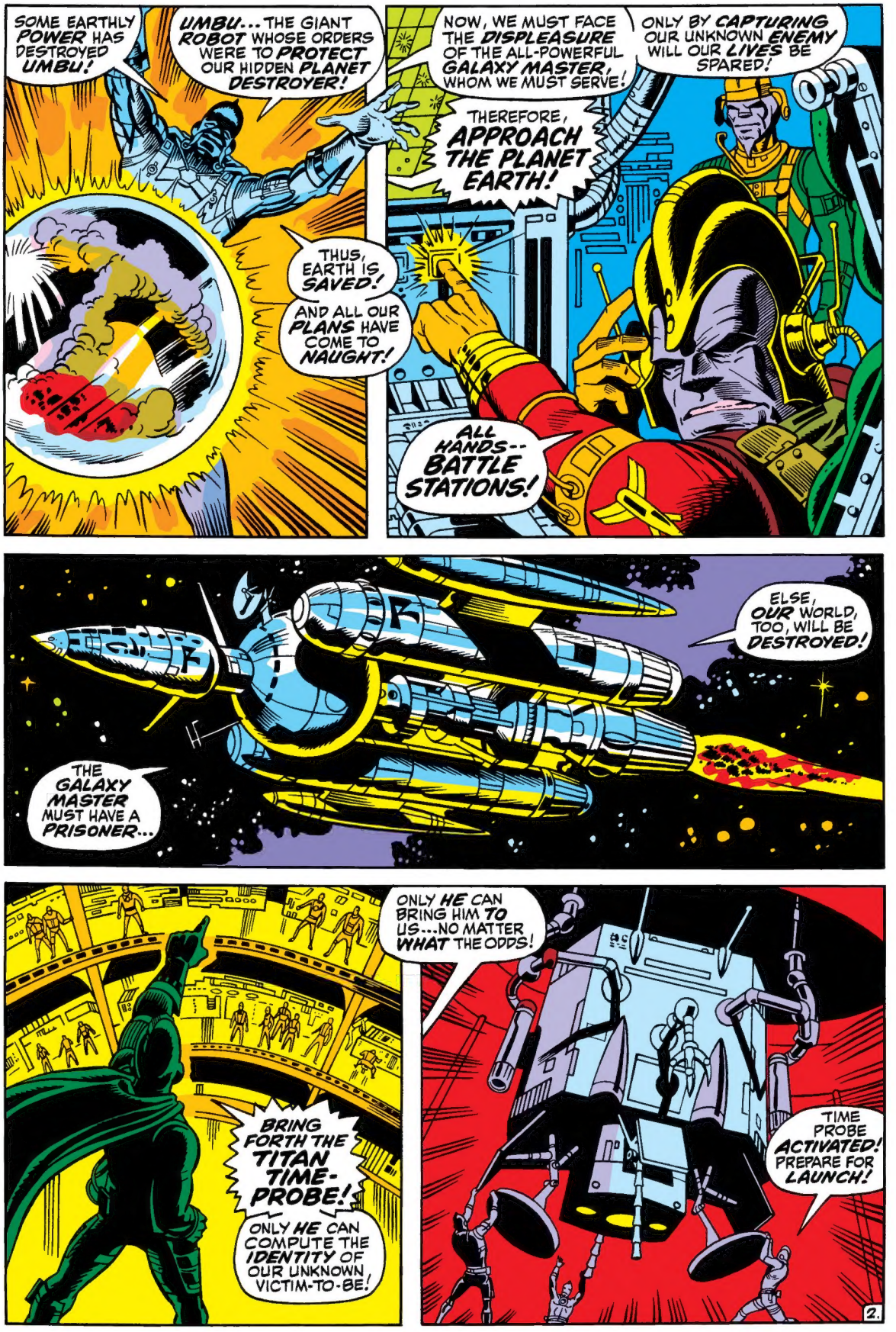
I take this opportunity to bow deeply and give heartfelt thanks to all those dedicated fans that have made it all possible.

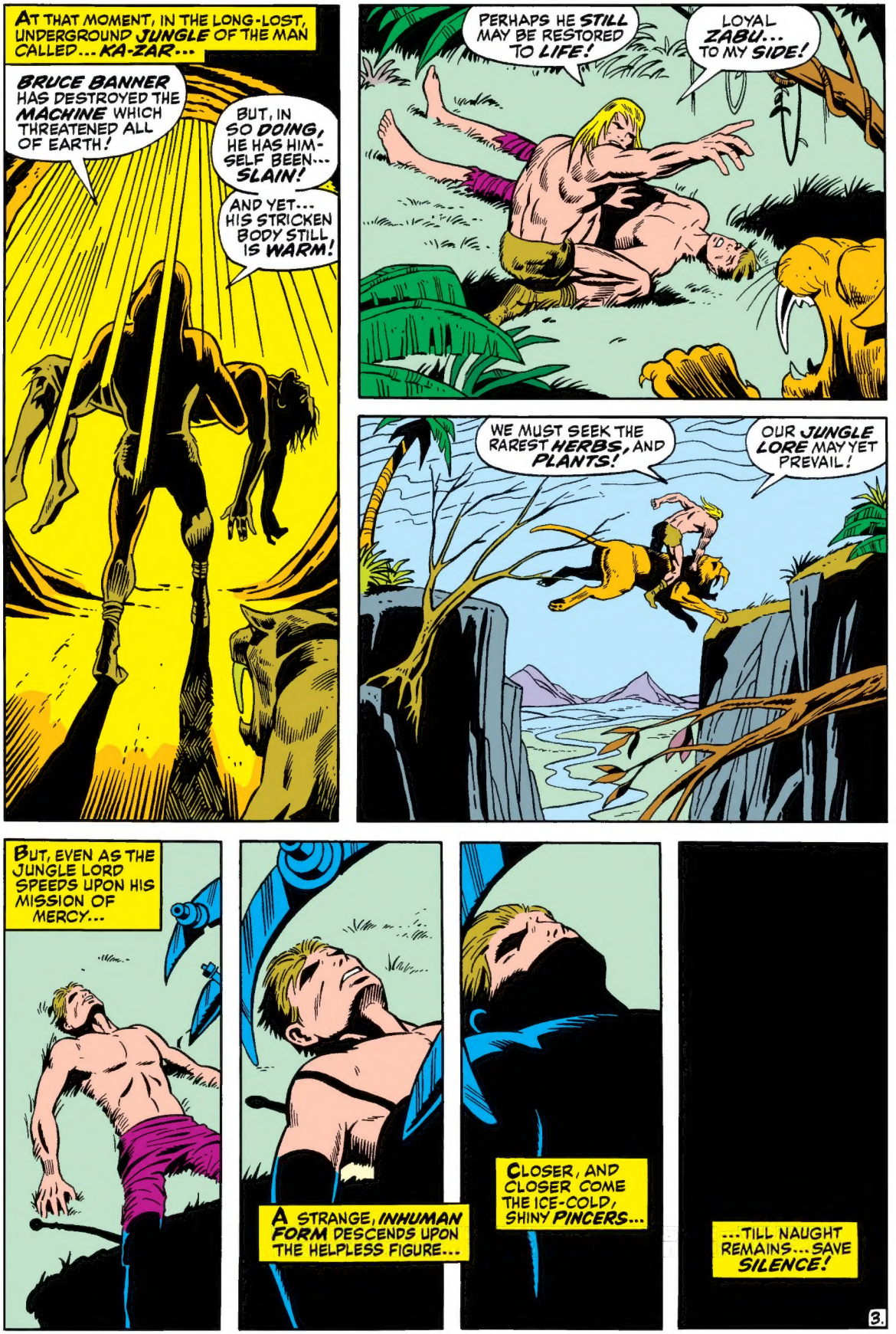


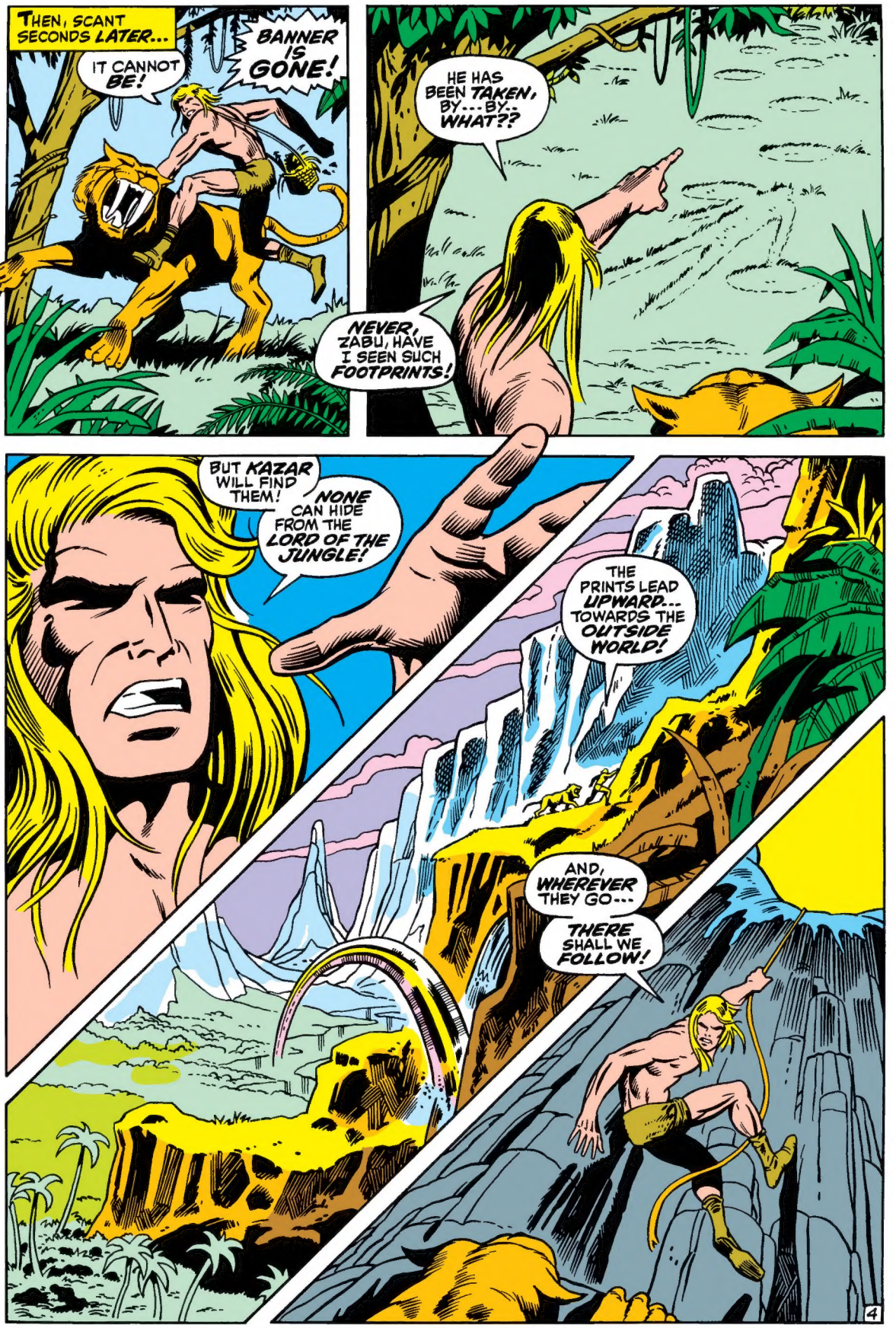
2008

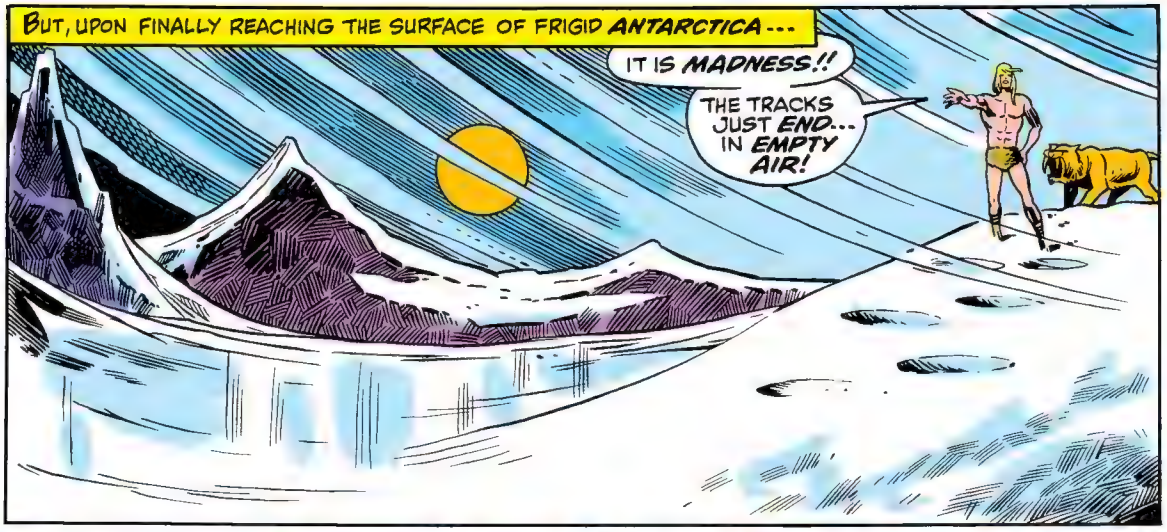
HULK
12¢ IND.
111 JAN
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SHANGHAIED IN SPACE!


THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
SHANGHAIED IN SPACE!
CRISIS ALERT!
WE HAVE MET DISASTER UPON THE PLANET CALLED EARTH!
OUR PLANET-DESTROYER HAS BEEN WIPED OUT!
STORY and ART:
SMILIN' STAN LEE
HAPPY HERBY TRIMPE
EMBELLISHMENT:
DANDY DAN ADKINS
LETTERING:
SWINGIN' SAMMY ROSEN
IF YOU MISSED LAST ISH, AND NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE TO YOU, HANG LOOSE! WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT TOGETHER, ON THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW...

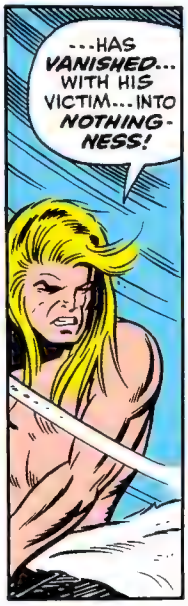

SOME EARTHLY POWER HAS DESTROYED UMBU!
UMBU... THE GIANT ROBOT WHOSE ORDERS WERE TO PROTECT OUR HIDDEN PLANET DESTROYER!
THUS, EARTH IS SAVED!
AND ALL OUR PLANS HAVE COME TO NAUGHT!
NOW, WE MUST FACE THE DISPLEASURE OF THE ALL-POWERFUL GALAXY MASTER, WHOM WE MUST SERVE!
ONLY BY CAPTURING OUR UNKNOWN ENEMY WILL OUR LIVES BE SPARED!
THEREFORE, APPROACH THE PLANET EARTH!
ALL HANDS-- BATTLE STATIONS!
ELSE, OUR WORLD, TOO, WILL BE DESTROYED!
THE GALAXY MASTER MUST HAVE A PRISONER...
BRING FORTH THE TITAN TIME-PROBE!
ONLY HE CAN COMPUTE THE IDENTITY OF OUR UNKNOWN VICTIM-TO-BE!
ONLY HE CAN BRING HIM TO US...NO MATTER WHAT THE ODDS!
TIME PROBE ACTIVATED! PREPARE FOR LAUNCH!
2.

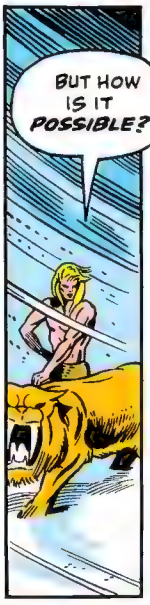

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE LONG-LOST, UNDERGROUND JUNGLE OF THE MAN CALLED... KA-ZAR...
BRUCE BANNER HAS DESTROYED THE MACHINE WHICH THREATENED ALL OF EARTH!
BUT, IN SO DOING, HE HAS HIMSELF BEEN... SLAIN!
AND YET... HIS STRICKEN BODY STILL IS WARM!
PERHAPS HE STILL MAY BE RESTORED TO LIFE!
LOYAL ZABU... TO MY SIDE!
WE MUST SEEK THE RAREST HERBS, AND PLANTS!
OUR JUNGLE LORE MAY YET PREVAIL!
BUT, EVEN AS THE JUNGLE LORD SPEEDS UPON HIS MISSION OF MERCY...
A STRANGE, INHUMAN FORM DESCENDS UPON THE HELPLESS FIGURE...
CLOSER, AND CLOSER COME THE ICE-COLD, SHINY PINCERS...
...TILL NAUGHT REMAINS... SAVE SILENCE!
3.


THEN, SCANT SECONDS LATER...
IT CANNOT BE!
BANNER IS GONE!
HE HAS BEEN TAKEN, BY--- BY-- WHAT??
NEVER, ZABU, HAVE I SEEN SUCH FOOTPRINTS!
BUT KAZAR WILL FIND THEM!
NONE CAN HIDE FROM THE LORD OF THE JUNGLE!
THE PRINTS LEAD UPWARD... TOWARDS THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
AND, WHEREVER THEY GO---
THERE SHALL WE FOLLOW!
4

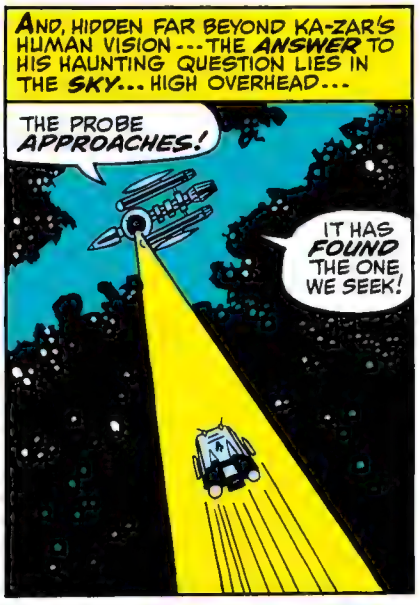

BUT, UPON FINALLY REACHING THE SURFACE OF FRIGID ANTARCTICA---
IT IS MADNESS!!
THE TRACKS JUST END... IN EMPTY AIR!

WHOEVER HAS CAPTURED BRUCE BANNER...


...HAS VANISHED... WITH HIS VICTIM... INTO NOTHING-NESS!


BUT HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?

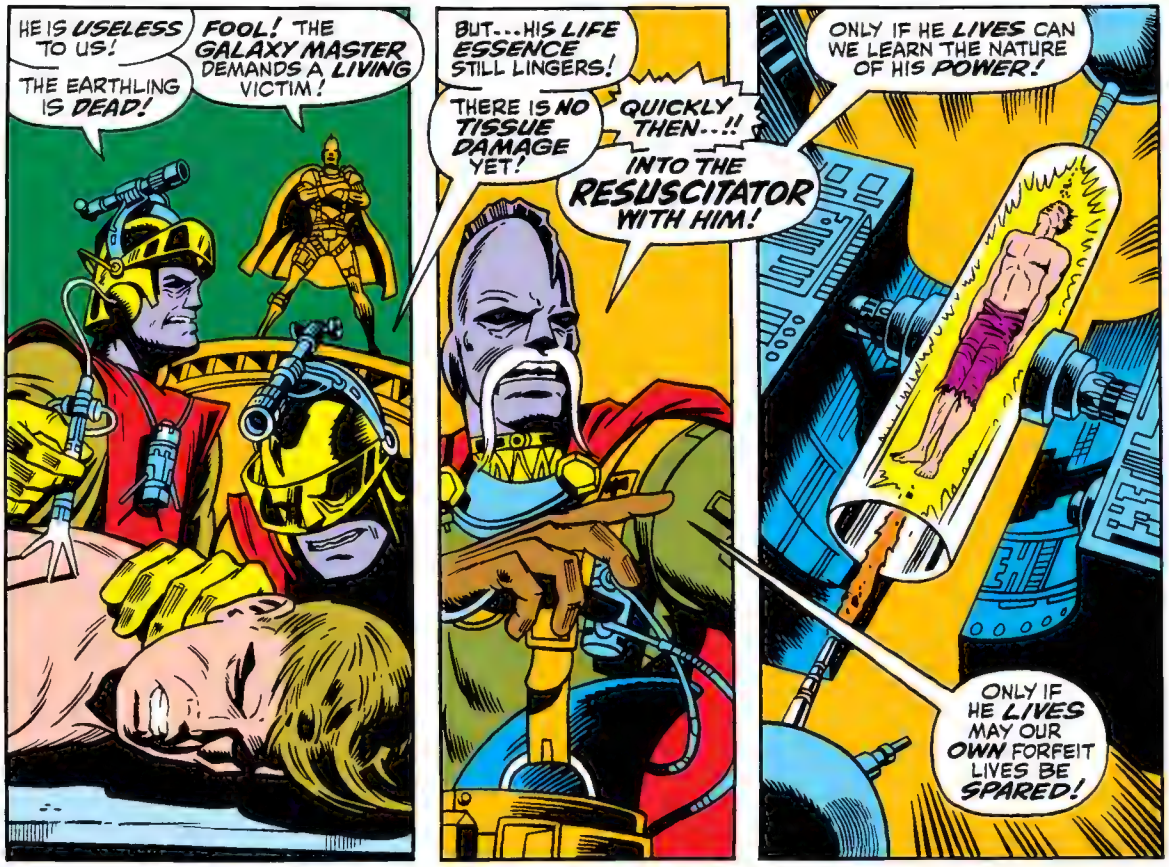
HOW??

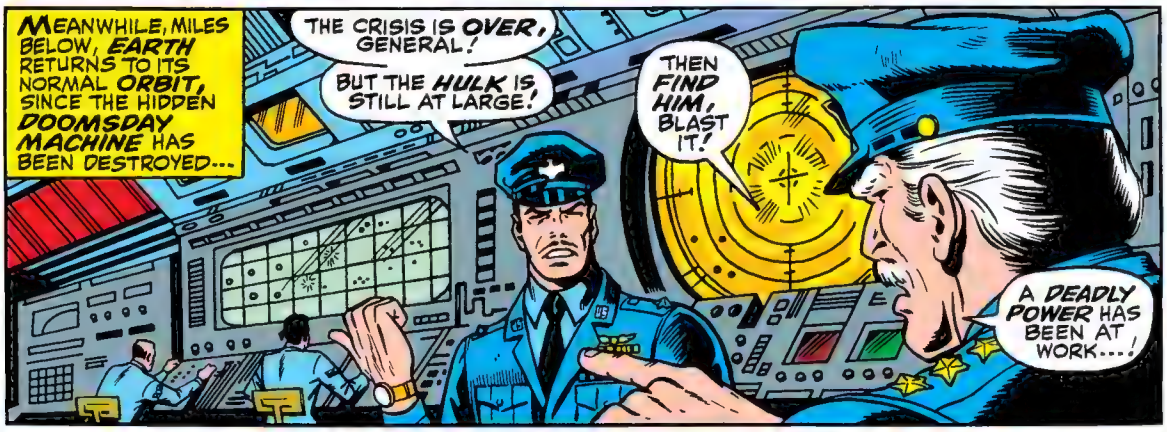

AND, HIDDEN FAR BEYOND KA-ZAR'S HUMAN VISION---THE ANSWER TO HIS HAUNTING QUESTION LIES IN THE SKY... HIGH OVERHEAD...
THE PROBE APPROACHES!
IT HAS FOUND THE ONE WE SEEK!

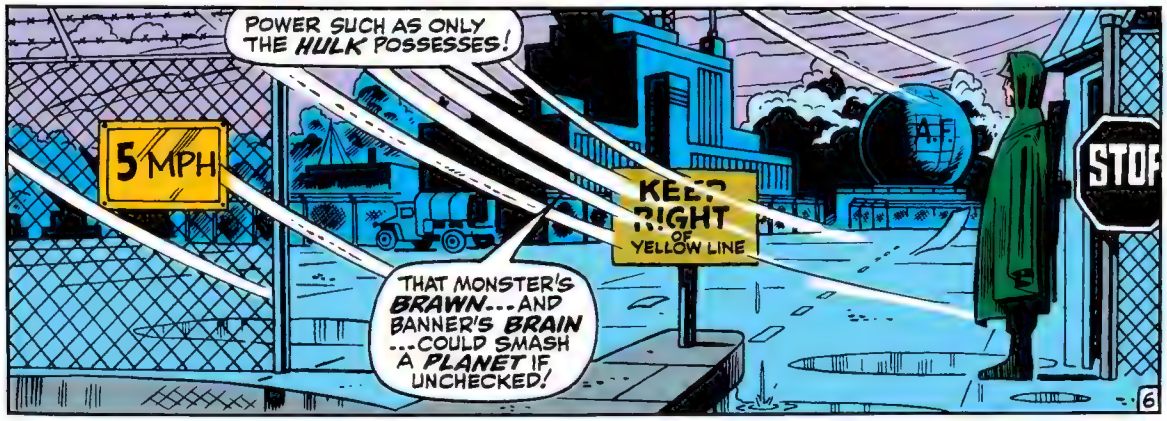
NOW, AT LAST WE SHALL LEARN...

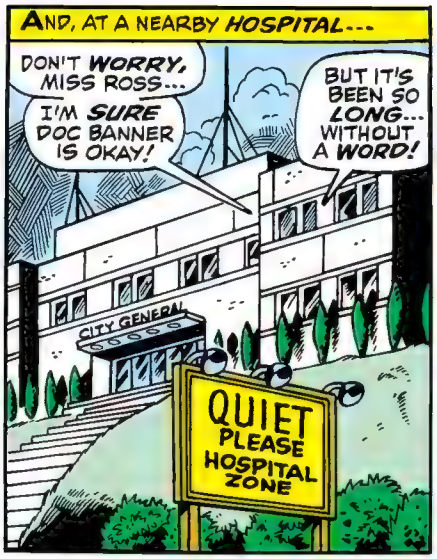
...WHAT MANNER OF BEING DEFEATED THE MON-STROUS UMBU...

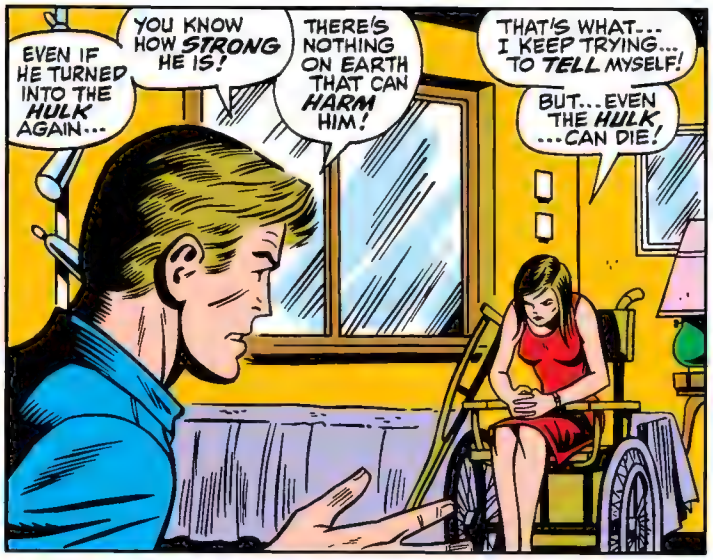
A PUNY, POWERLESS HUMAN?!!
IMPOSSIBLE!

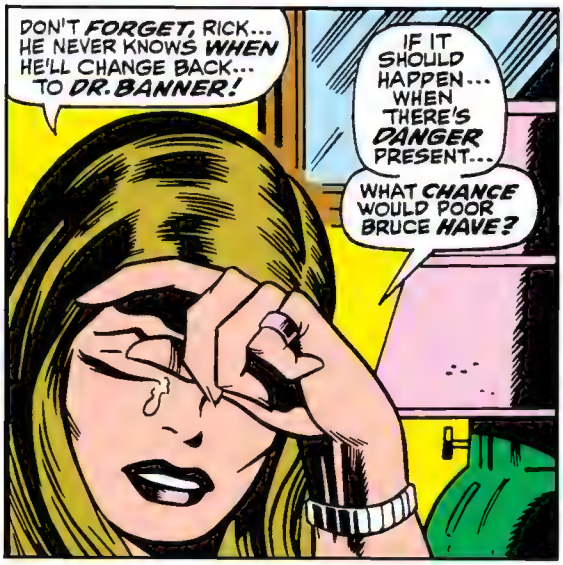

HE IS USELESS TO US!
THE EARTHLING IS DEAD!
FOOL! THE GALAXY MASTER DEMANDS A LIVING VICTIM!
BUT...HIS LIFE ESSENCE STILL LINGERS!
THERE IS NO TISSUE DAMAGE YET!
QUICKLY THEN...!!
INTO THE RESUSCITATOR WITH HIM!
ONLY IF HE LIVES CAN WE LEARN THE NATURE OF HIS POWER!
ONLY IF HE LIVES MAY OUR OWN FORFEIT LIVES BE SPARED!


MEANWHILE, MILES BELOW, EARTH RETURNS TO ITS NORMAL ORBIT, SINCE THE HIDDEN DOOMSDAY MACHINE HAS BEEN DESTROYED...
THE CRISIS IS OVER, GENERAL!
BUT THE HULK IS STILL AT LARGE!
THEN FIND HIM, BLAST IT!
A DEADLY POWER HAS BEEN AT WORK...!


POWER SUCH AS ONLY THE HULK POSSESSES!
5 MPH
KEEP RIGHT OF YELLOW LINE
STOP
THAT MONSTER'S BRAWN...AND BANNER'S BRAIN ...COULD SMASH A PLANET IF UNCHECKED!
6


AND, AT A NEARBY HOSPITAL---
DON'T WORRY, MISS ROSS...
I'M SURE DOC BANNER IS OKAY!
BUT IT'S BEEN SO LONG... WITHOUT A WORD!
CITY GENERAL
QUIET PLEASE HOSPITAL ZONE

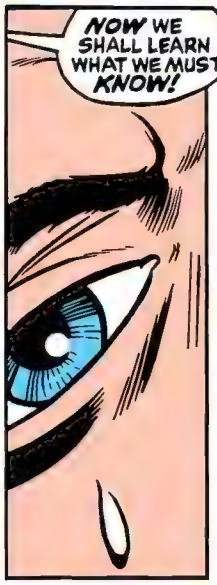

EVEN IF HE TURNED INTO THE HULK AGAIN...
YOU KNOW HOW STRONG HE IS!
THERE'S NOTHING ON EARTH THAT CAN HARM HIM!
THAT'S WHAT... I KEEP TRYING... TO TELL MYSELF!
BUT... EVEN THE HULK, ...CAN DIE!

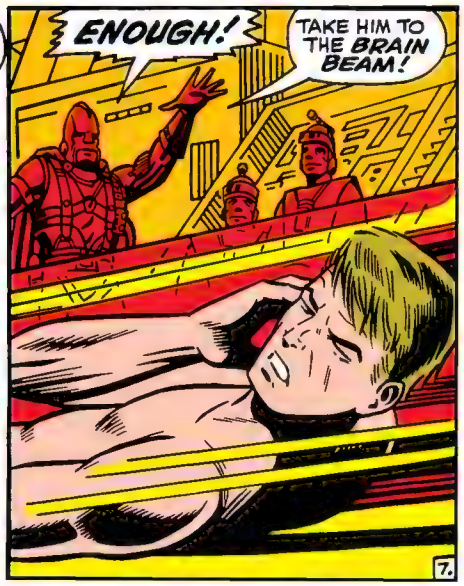

DON'T FORGET, RICK... HE NEVER KNOWS WHEN HE'LL CHANGE BACK... TO DR. BANNER!
IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN... WHEN THERE'S DANGER PRESENT...
WHAT CHANCE WOULD POOR BRUCE HAVE?

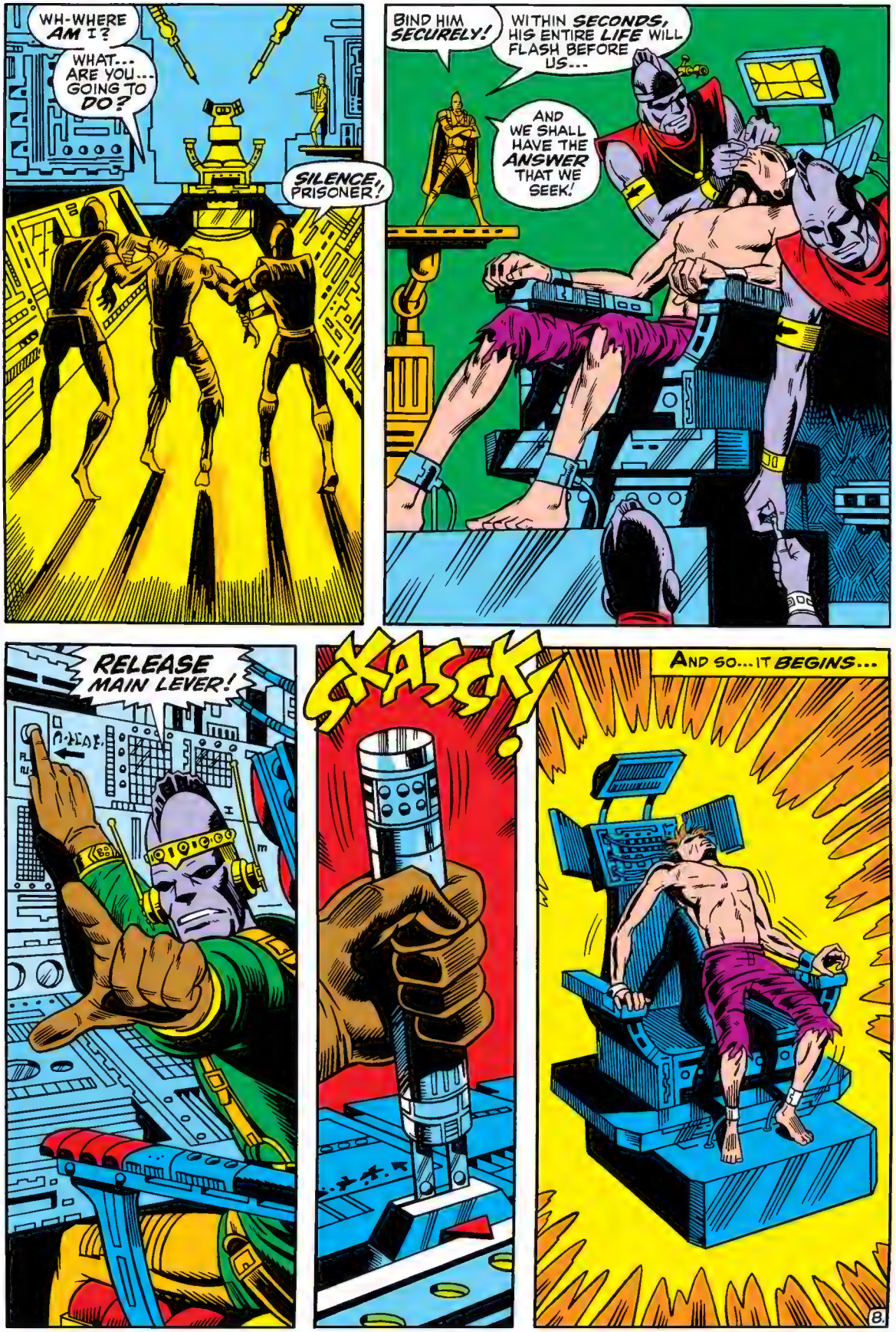
AND, SINCE WE'VE BEEN WONDERING THE SELF-SAME THING...
LET'S REJOIN THE STAR SHIP AND FIND OUT...

THE RESUSCI-TATOR HAS RESTORED HIS LIFE!

THE EARTHLING WAKES!


NOW WE SHALL LEARN WHAT WE MUST KNOW!


ENOUGH!
TAKE HIM TO THE BRAIN BEAM!


WH-WHERE AM I?
WHAT... ARE YOU... GOING TO DO?
SILENCE, PRISONER!
BIND HIM SECURELY!
WITHIN SECONDS, HIS ENTIRE LIFE WILL FLASH BEFORE US...
AND WE SHALL HAVE THE ANSWER THAT WE SEEK!
RELEASE MAIN LEVER!
SKASCK!
AND SO... IT BEGINS...
8

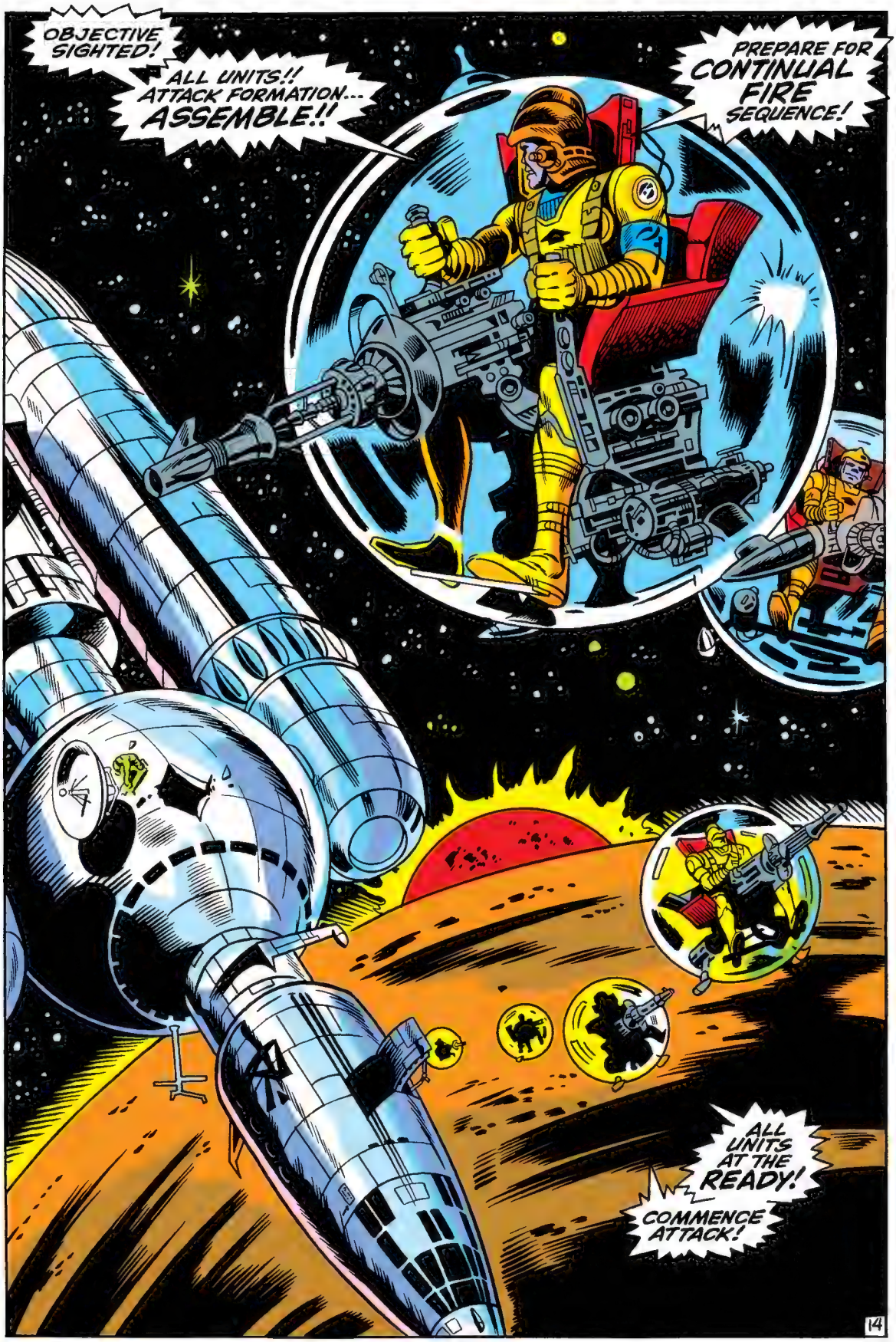
THE ENCEPHALIC PATTERN IS CLEAR!
HE IS A SCIENTIST--- ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT OF ALL!
HE POSSESSES NO SUPER POWER! HE CANNOT HARM US!*
HE STUMBLED UPON OUR DOOMSDAY MACHINE ---AND DEACTIVATED IT, WITH THE AID OF A PRIMITIVE SAVAGE BEING!
THE GALAXY MASTER WOULD SENTENCE HIM TO DEATH! SO LET IT BE!
NO!! ARE WE TO BE NO MORE THAN MURDERERS?
HE ONLY SOUGHT TO SAVE HIS WORLD!
NONE MAY QUESTION ONE WHO SERVES THE GALAXY MASTER!
THWOP!
THE HUMAN MUST DIE!
*WHILE IN ITS NORMAL STATE, BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN CONTAINS NO EVIDENCE OF HIS HULK IDENTITY!
9.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE FATE OF OTHERS WHO DARED DEFY THE MASTER?
IS HIS NOT THE GREATEST POWER WITHIN THE THOUSAND GALAXIES?
AND, HAS HE NOT COMMANDED ---ALL INTELLIGENT LIFE MUST BE ERASED!
FOR, ONLY THEN CAN HE BE CERTAIN... NONE WILL EVER RISE TO OPPOSE HIM!
ONLY BY ACTING AS HIS UNQUESTIONING SLAVES, ARE WE ALLOWED... SURVIVAL!
SAY NO MORE!! I, YOUR MASTER, WHO SEES ALL... WHO HEARS ALL... GROW WEARY OF SUCH BABBLE!
YOUR PRISONER HAS THWARTED MY PLANS! THUS, HE MUST PERISH!
TO THE DE-COMPRESSION CHAMBER WITH HIM!
THE GALAXY MASTER HAS MADE HIMSELF HEARD!
GUARDS! DO YOUR DUTY!
IT MUST BE DONE! THE MASTER MUST BE APPEASED!
BUT, THE DAY WILL COME...WHEN ALL HAVE BEEN DES-TROYED...
AND HE HAS NO FURTHER NEED ---FOR US!
CLANG!

BEGIN THE DE-COMPRESS-ION!!
KLAK!
THE PRESSURE GETTING... HEAVIER!! CRUSHING IN... ON ME... LIKE AN INVISIBLE VISE..!!
CAN'T... GET MY BREATH! CAN'T FILL... MY LUNGS!
PORT-HOLE... OPENING!! CAN'T SUR-VIVE... IN AIRLESS SPACE..!
AS A COLD, NUMBING FEAR CLUTCHES AT HIS HEART...
...BRUCE BAN-NER'S PULSE SPEEDS FASTER ...AND FASTER... AND FASTER... UNTIL...
SKRRRUTTCHH!
WHY AM I LOCKED IN EMPTY CABIN??
WHY DO THEY TRY TO KILL ...THE HULK??
11.

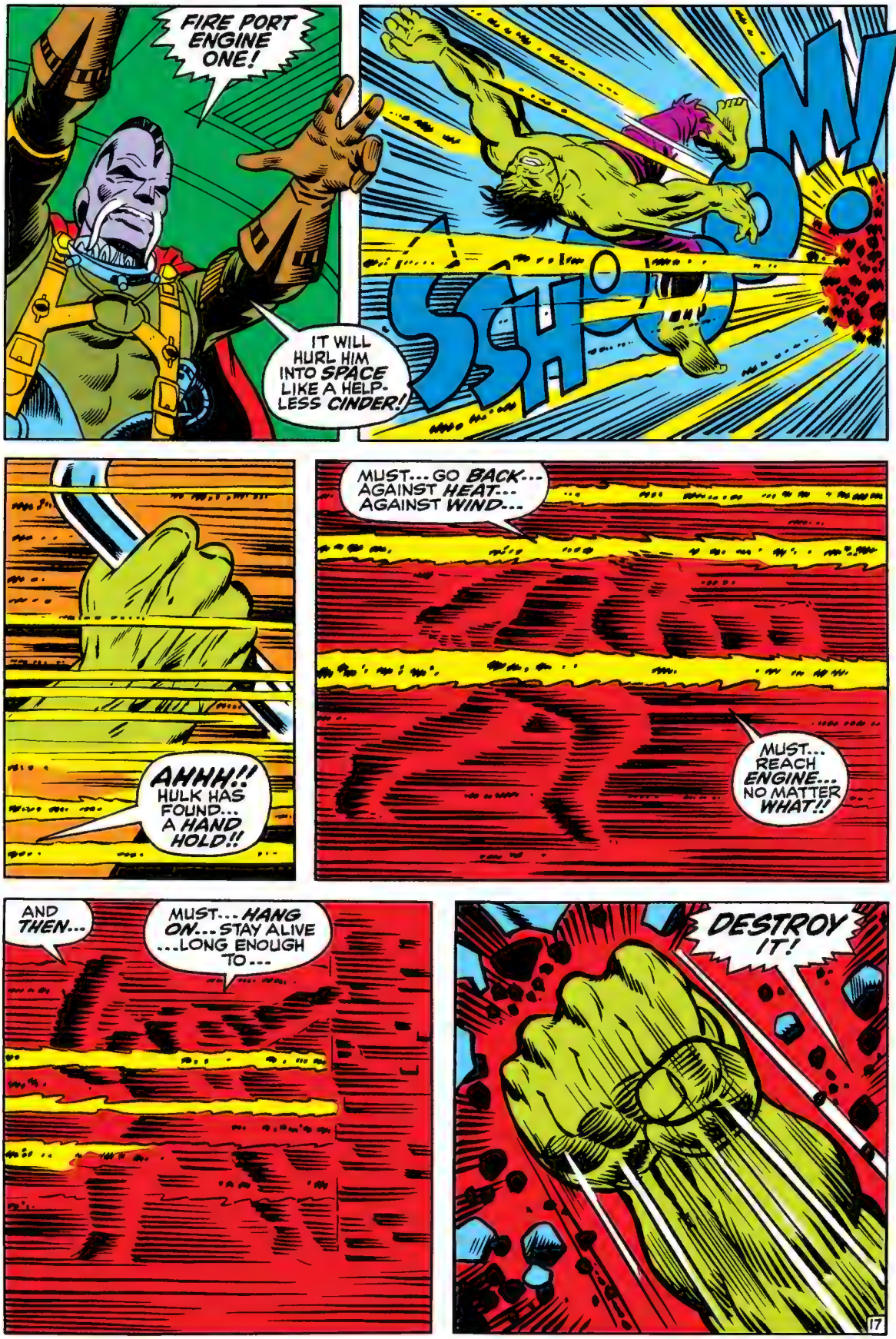
NO ONE CAN KEEP THE HULK PRISONER!!
BUT... NOTHING OUT HERE--- EXCEPT EMPTY SPACE!
ZZ-ZA-K!
HULK MUST NOT BE TRAPPED... TO DRIFT FOREVER IN THE SKY..!!
BATTLE STATIONS! BATTLE STATIONS!
GREEN-SKINNED BEING APPROACHING ON PORT ROCKET TUBE!
GUNNERY SECTIONS ...OPEN HATCHES!!
GUNNERY STATIONS... FIRE!!
SPTOOOOOM!
12

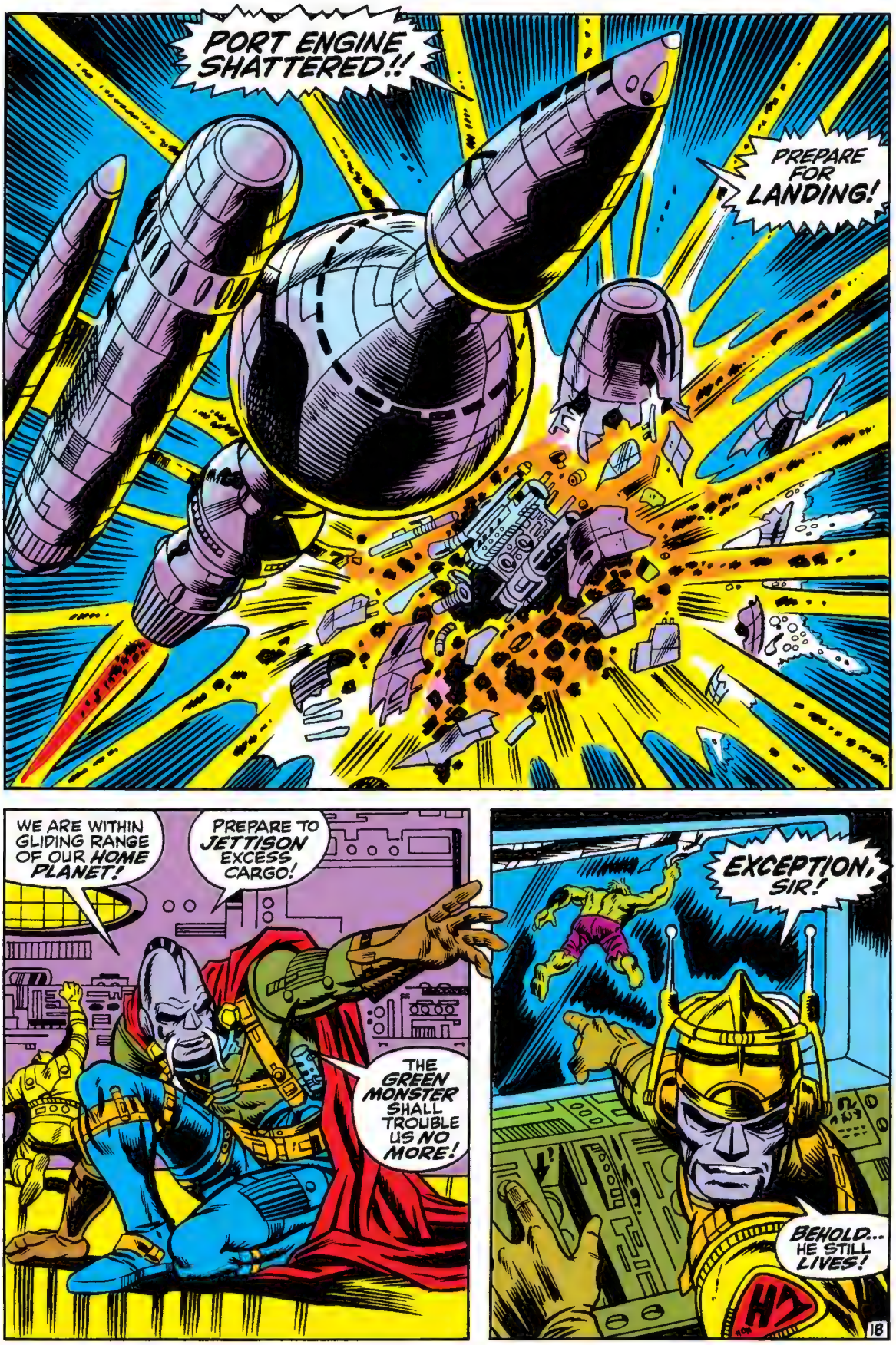
WHAT MANNER OF MONSTER CAN HE BE?
OUR DEADLIEST BEAMS DO NOT AFFECT HIM!
PERHAPS HE IS A ROBOT... DISPATCHED FROM EARTH!
IMPOSSIBLE! HOW DID HE GET HERE?
STRONG AS HE IS... HE CANNOT FLY!!
BUT HE MUST BE STOPPED... BEFORE HE TEARS THE SHIP APART!
ZAP!
STRASSK!
MAN YOUR SPHERES! ON THE DOUBLE!
MAIN DETECTION SCANNER IS DESTROYED!
OUR PORT LASERS ARE SHATTERED!!
INTERCEPTOR SQUAD!! MAN THE REPULSE SPHERES!
13.


OBJECTIVE SIGHTED!
ALL UNITS!! ATTACK FORMATION... ASSEMBLE!!
PREPARE FOR CONTINUAL FIRE SEQUENCE!
ALL UNITS AT THE READY!
COMMENCE ATTACK!

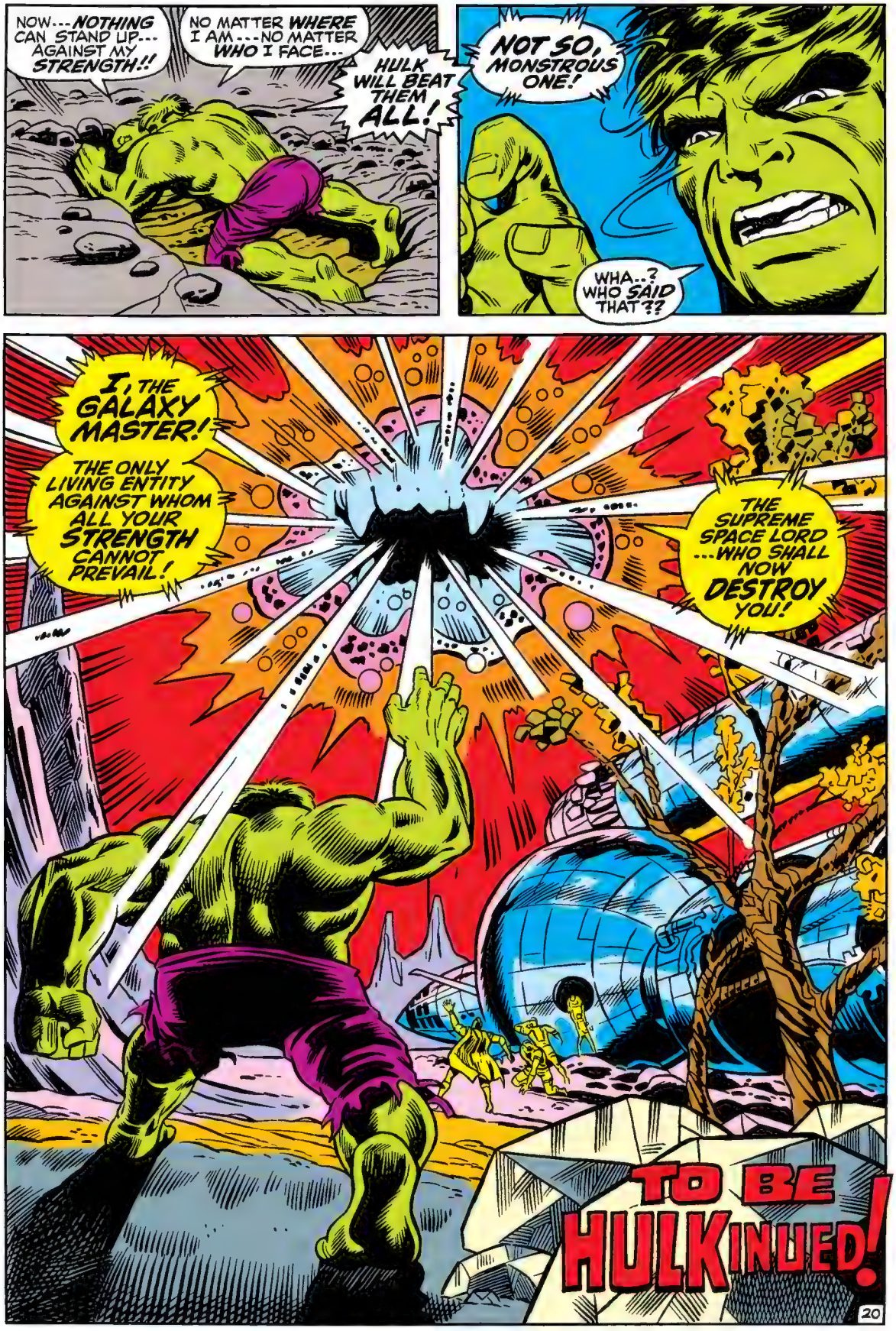
HE LIFTS THE MAIN DETECTION SCANNER... WITH ONE HAND!!
NO! HE CANNOT BE A ROBOT!
HE MUST BE A ROBOT!
NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN POSSESS SUCH STRENGTH!
FLYING BUBBLES COME THIS WAY...TO ATTACK HULK!
BUT, I WILL WAIT...TILL THEY GET CLOSER..!
EARTH TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT PROGRESSED THAT FAR!
WE WILL HAVE THE ANSWER SOON ENOUGH...
ONCE HE IS DESTROYED!
MAINTAIN RADIO CONTACT! FIRE AT WILL!
OUR AIM IS TRUE... BUT HE DOES NOT FALL!
ALL UNITS REGROUP!! PREPARE FOR SECOND PASS!
BUT, BEFORE THE COMMAND CAN BE OBEYED...
HULK HAS NO GUNS... NO WEAPONS!
BUT HULK CAN STILL FIGHT BACK!!
15

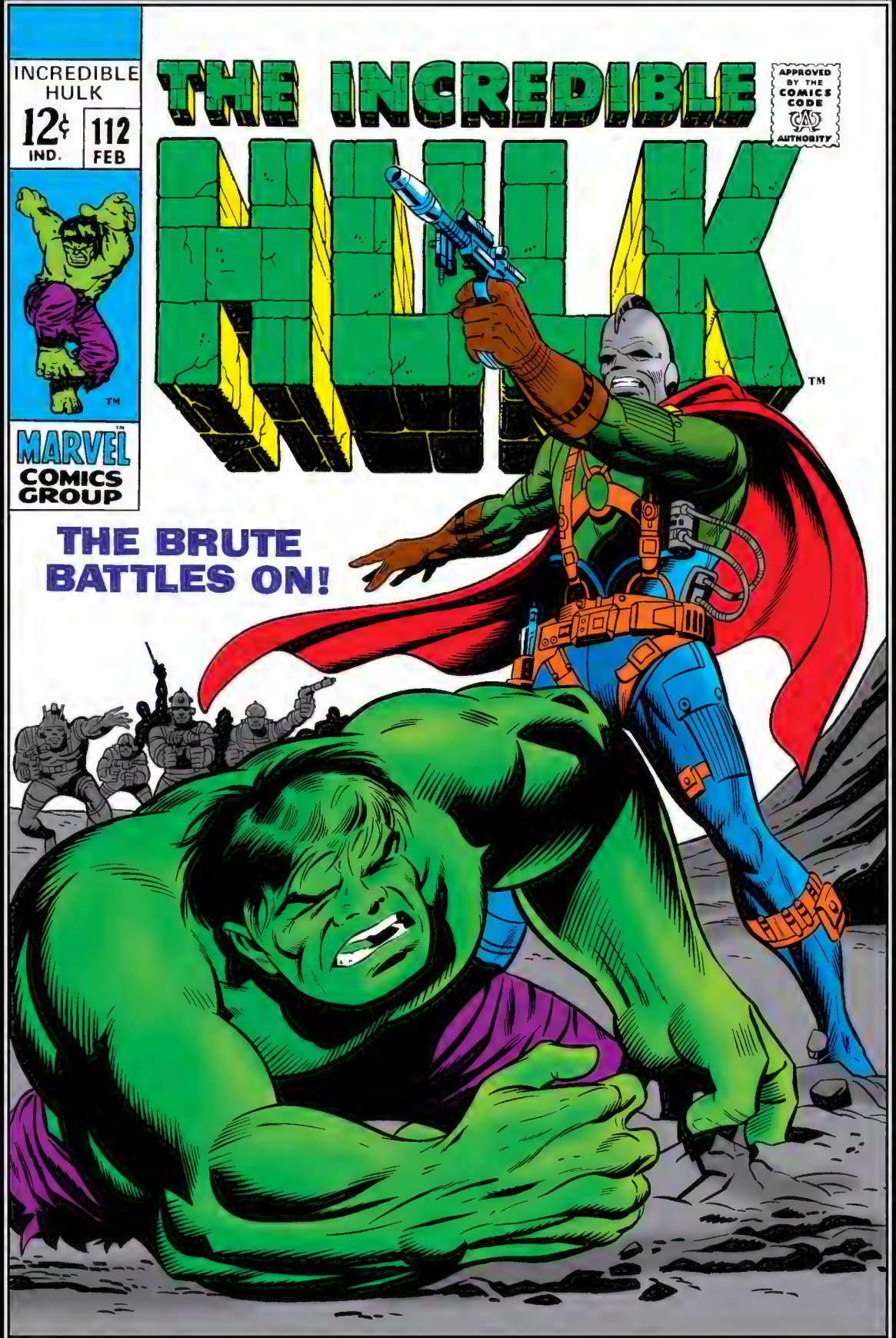
KBLOOM!
HE HAS OUT-FOUGHT THE INTERCEPTOR ATTACK SPHERES!
EVEN NOW HE ENTERS THE PORT ROCKET EXHAUST TUBE!
THUS HE HAS MADE HIS ONE FATAL ERROR!!
I MUST ENTER THE SHIP!
MUST LEARN WHO IS INSIDE...
MUST LEARN WHY THEY WANT TO KILL ME!
AND THEN--- HULK WILL MAKE THEM PAY!


FIRE PORT ENGINE ONE!
IT WILL HURL HIM INTO SPACE LIKE A HELP-LESS CINDER!
SSH
M!
AHHH!! HULK HAS FOUND... A HAND HOLD!!
MUST... GO BACK... AGAINST HEAT... AGAINST WIND...
MUST... REACH ENGINE... NO MATTER WHAT!!
AND THEN...
MUST... HANG ON... STAY ALIVE ...LONG ENOUGH TO...
DESTROY IT!


PORT ENGINE SHATTERED!!
PREPARE FOR LANDING!
WE ARE WITHIN GLIDING RANGE OF OUR HOME PLANET!
PREPARE TO JETTISON EXCESS CARGO!
THE GREEN MONSTER SHALL TROUBLE US NO MORE!
EXCEPTION, SIR!
BEHOLD... HE STILL LIVES!
18

THE SHIP IS DROPPING!
HEADING FOR THE PLANET DOWN BELOW!
AT LAST I'LL LEARN ...WHO MY ENEMIES ARE!
REVERSE DESCENT ATTITUDE!
PREPARE FOR HORIZONTAL LANDING!
SH
HO
OOOOOOO
IN THIS MANNER ...WE MAY CRUSH THE BESTIAL INTRUDER!
PREPARE FOR SET-DOWN!
SKRAZZSKKK
HAH!! HULK IS BACK... ON THE GROUND!!
19


NOW---NOTHING CAN STAND UP--- AGAINST MY STRENGTH!!
NO MATTER WHERE I AM---NO MATTER WHO I FACE...
HULK WILL BEAT THEM ALL!
NOT SO, MONSTROUS ONE!
WHA..? WHO SAID THAT??
I, THE GALAXY MASTER!
THE ONLY LIVING ENTITY AGAINST WHOM ALL YOUR STRENGTH CANNOT PREVAIL!
THE SUPREME SPACE LORD ---WHO SHALL NOW DESTROY YOU!
TO BE HULKINUED!


INCREDIBLE HULK
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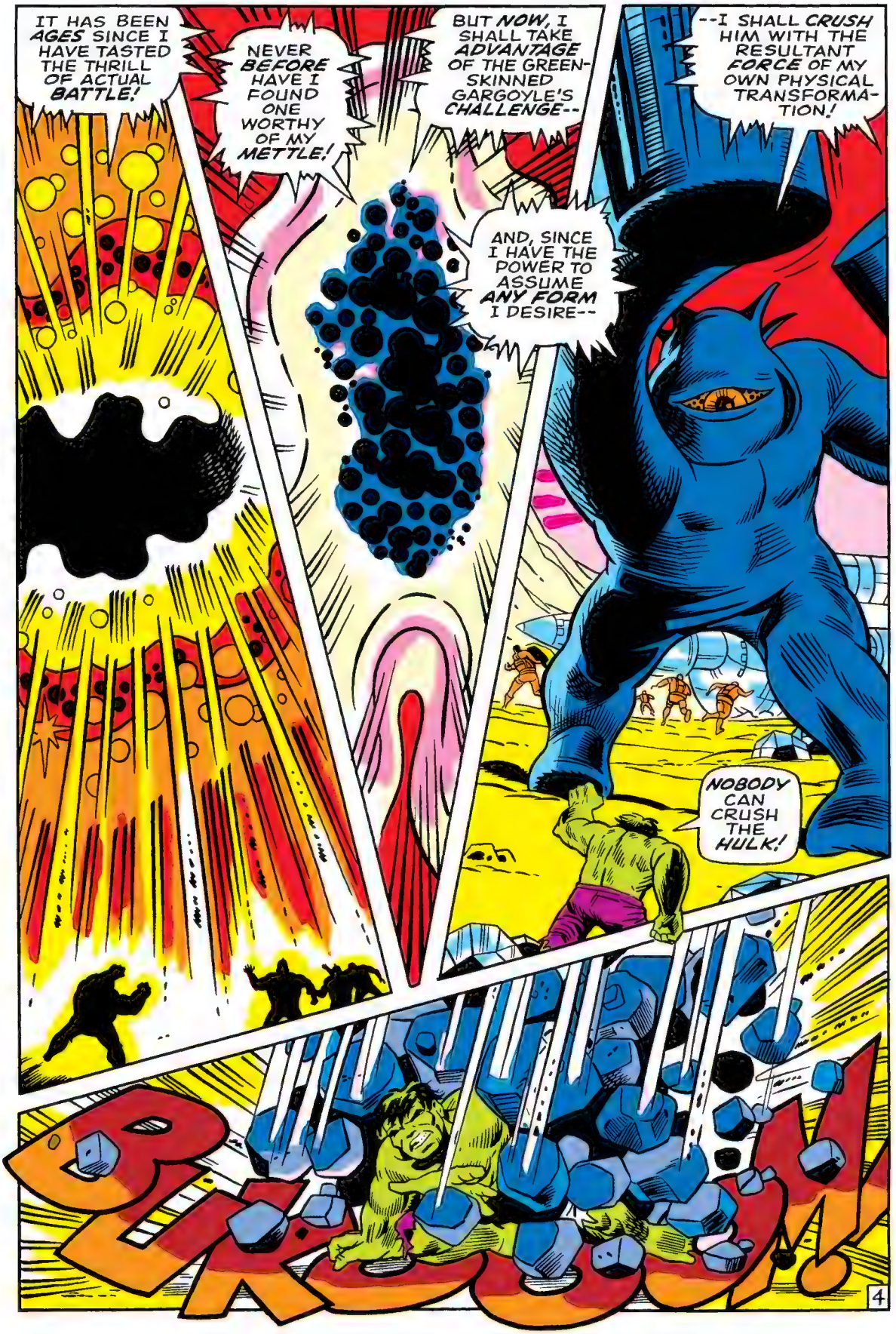
THE BRUTE BATTLES ON!

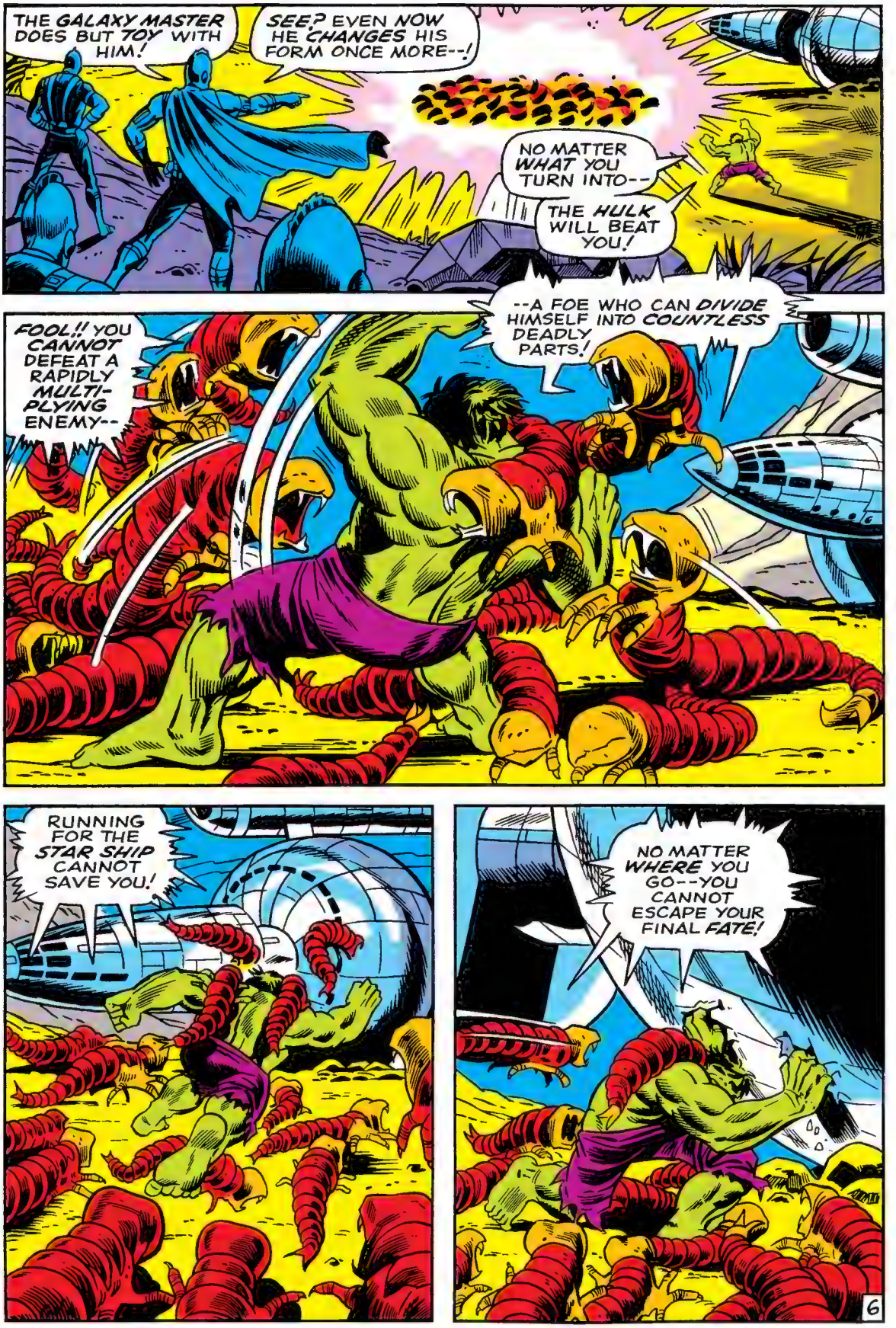
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
"THE BRUTE BATTLES ON!"
MY PRINCESS! YOUR UNCLE--OUR WARLORD SUPREME--HAS RETURNED FROM EARTH!
AND WITH HIM--A DEADLY, GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER!
BE YOU SILENT! I SHALL SEE FOR MYSELF!
ZAPP!
POWERFULLY PRESENTED BY:
SMILIN' STAN LEE and HAPPY HERB TRIMPE
EMBELLISHMENT: DAN ADKINS
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK

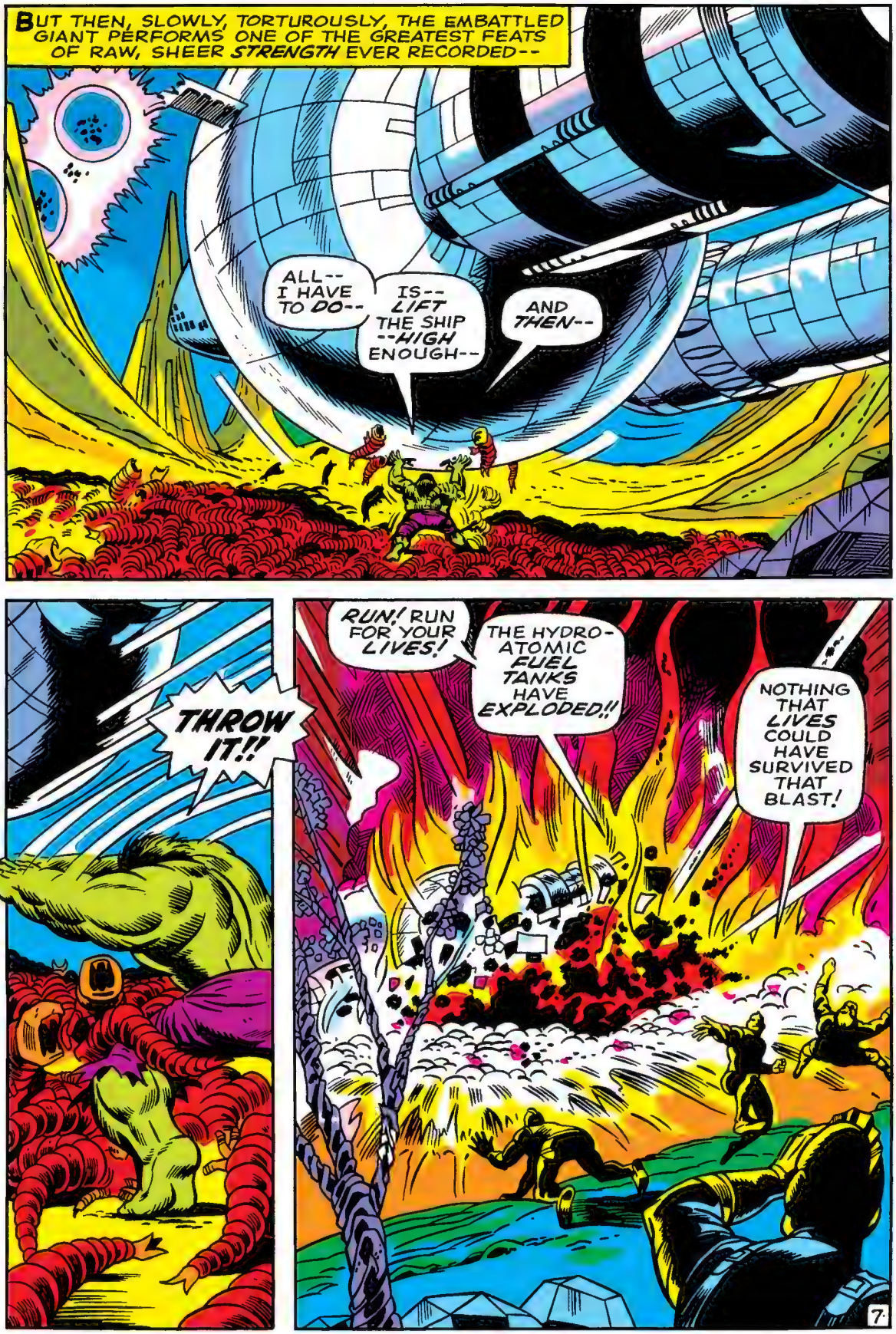
WHAT?!! HE DARES DEFY THE DEADLY GALAXY MASTER?!!
THE MADNESS OF SPACE MUST BE UPON HIM!
I SHALL ACTIVATE THE AUDIO-BEAM--
--THAT WE MAY HEAR HIS FINAL WORDS!
YOU CALL YOURSELF-- GALAXY MASTER!
YOU SAY YOU WILL DESTROY THE HULK!
BUT HULK SAYS--YOU LIE!
WE WOULD HAVE SLAIN HIM ABOARD THE STAR SHIP, O MASTER!
BUT BROUGHT HIM HERE INSTEAD--THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE THE PLEASURE!
FAWNING, FORK-TONGUED SYCOPHANT! SPARE ME YOUR WITLESS LIES!
I HAVE OBSERVED ALL THAT HAS TRANS-PIRED!
I SHALL DISPOSE OF THE MINDLESS CREATURE IN MY OWN GOOD TIME-- IN MY OWN DEADLY MANNER!
BUT FIRST-- I MUST LEARN THE SOURCE OF HIS BESTIAL, BLUDGEONING POWER!
HULK WILL TEACH YOU ABOUT HIS POWER--
I'LL TEACH YOU MORE THAN YOU EXPECT!!
2

WHAT?!! YOU THINK ANY SINGLE BEING CAN THREATEN ONE WHO HAS DECIMATED ENTIRE PLANETS?!!
ONE SIMPLE BLAST OF PRIMORDIAL ENERGY WILL TEACH YOU--
--HOW WRONG YOU ARE!
IF YOU SHOULD RISE AGAIN--
IT WILL BE AS MY FEARFUL, BROKEN, ABJECT SLAVE!
GREAT IS THE MIGHTY GALAXY MASTER!
FORTUNATE ARE WE-- WHO ARE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE HIM!
MASTER! THE BRUTE STIRS--HE RISES ONCE MORE!
STRIKE OUT AGAIN! SLAY HIM WHERE HE STANDS--
--LEST HE BRING HARM TO YOUR FAITHFUL SUBJECTS!
COWARD! HULK WILL SETTLE WITH YOU-- LATER!
3

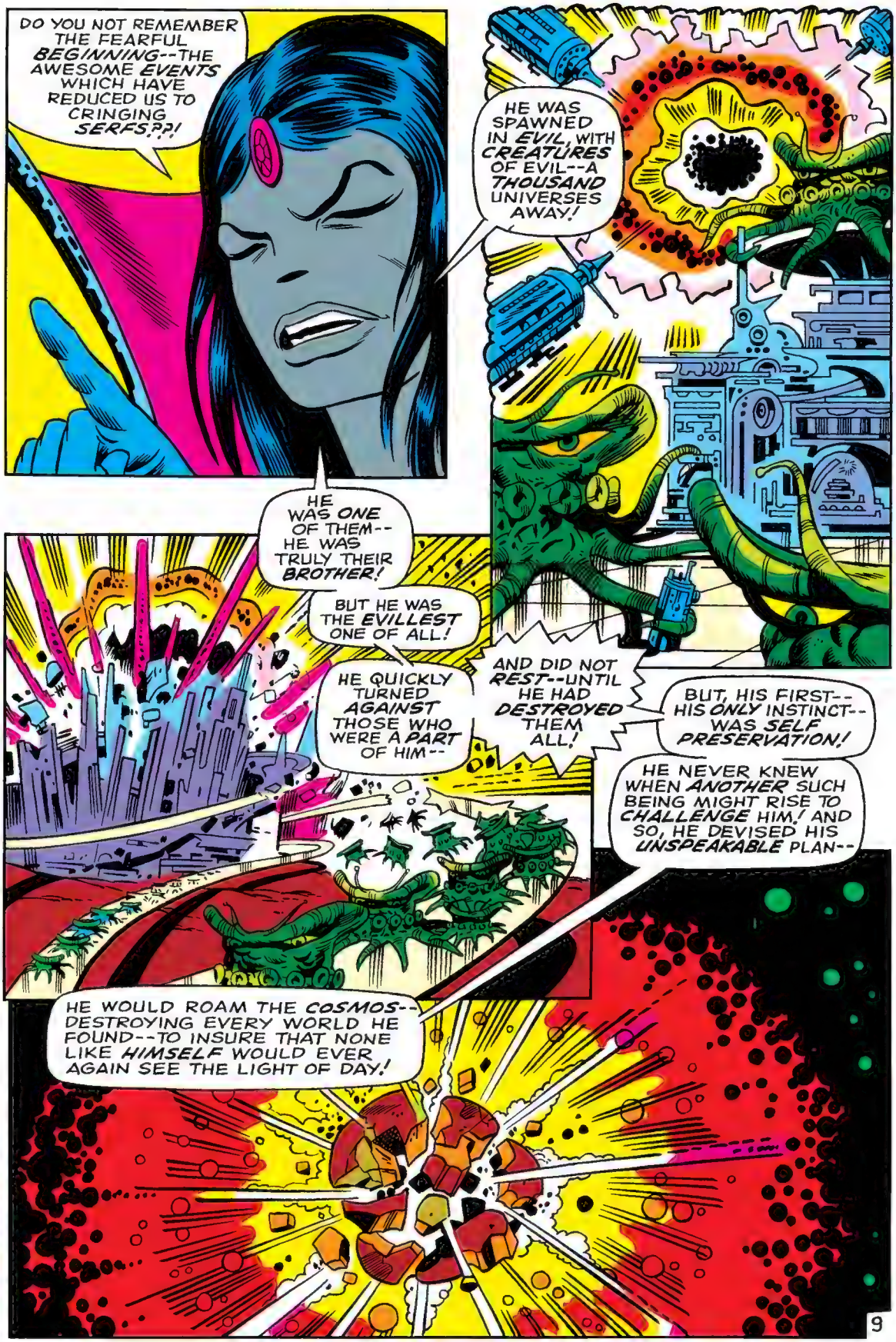

IT HAS BEEN AGES SINCE I HAVE TASTED THE THRILL OF ACTUAL BATTLE!
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I FOUND ONE WORTHY OF MY METTLE!
BUT NOW, I SHALL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GREEN-SKINNED GARGOYLE'S CHALLENGE--
AND, SINCE I HAVE THE POWER TO ASSUME ANY FORM I DESIRE--
--I SHALL CRUSH HIM WITH THE RESULTANT FORCE OF MY OWN PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION!
NOBODY CAN CRUSH THE HULK!
RRRRR!!

YOU STILL LIVE?!!
YOUR STRENGTH IS GREATER BY FAR THAN ANY I HAVE EVER FOUGHT!
YOU SHALL LIVE TO AFFORD ME MUCH AMUSEMENT!
YES-- HULK WILL LIVE!
--BUT WILL NEVER STOP FIGHTING YOU!
HULK CANNOT TIRE! THE MORE I FIGHT--THE STRONGER I BECOME!
THAT IS WHY HULK CAN SMASH-- ANYONE!
NOT A FOE YOU CANNOT TOUCH!
HE-- WASN'T THERE!!
I JUMPED RIGHT THRU HIM-- WHILE HE FADED AWAY!
IT MEANS --HE'S AFRAID TO FACE --THE HULK!
SIRE! IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SEEMS-- PERHAPS THE MONSTER CAN DEFEAT OUR TYRANNICAL MASTER--
AND THEN-- WE SHALL BE FREE ONCE MORE!
SILENCE! SPEAK TO ME NOT OF TREASON!
5

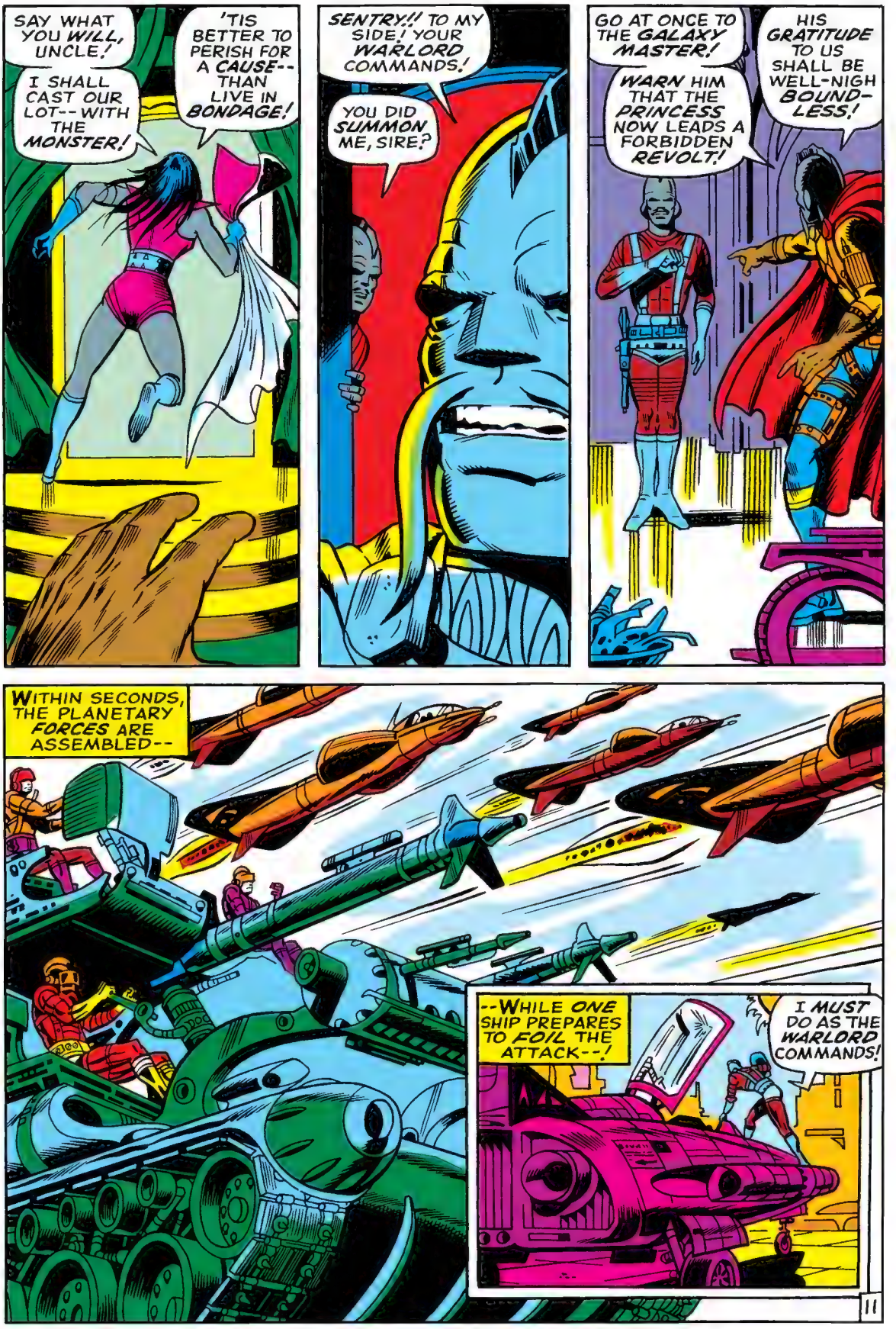

THE GALAXY MASTER DOES BUT TOY WITH HIM!
SEE? EVEN NOW HE CHANGES HIS FORM ONCE MORE--!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU TURN INTO--
THE HULK WILL BEAT YOU!
FOOL!! YOU CANNOT DEFEAT A RAPIDLY MULTI-PLYING ENEMY--
--A FOE WHO CAN DIVIDE HIMSELF INTO COUNTLESS DEADLY PARTS!
RUNNING FOR THE STAR SHIP CANNOT SAVE YOU!
NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO--YOU CANNOT ESCAPE YOUR FINAL FATE!
6


BUT THEN, SLOWLY, TORTUROUSLY, THE EMBATTLED GIANT PERFORMS ONE OF THE GREATEST FEATS OF RAW, SHEER STRENGTH EVER RECORDED--
ALL-- I HAVE TO DO--
IS-- LIFT THE SHIP --HIGH ENOUGH--
AND THEN--
THROW IT!!
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
THE HYDRO-ATOMIC FUEL TANKS HAVE EXPLODED!!
NOTHING THAT LIVES COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT BLAST!
7

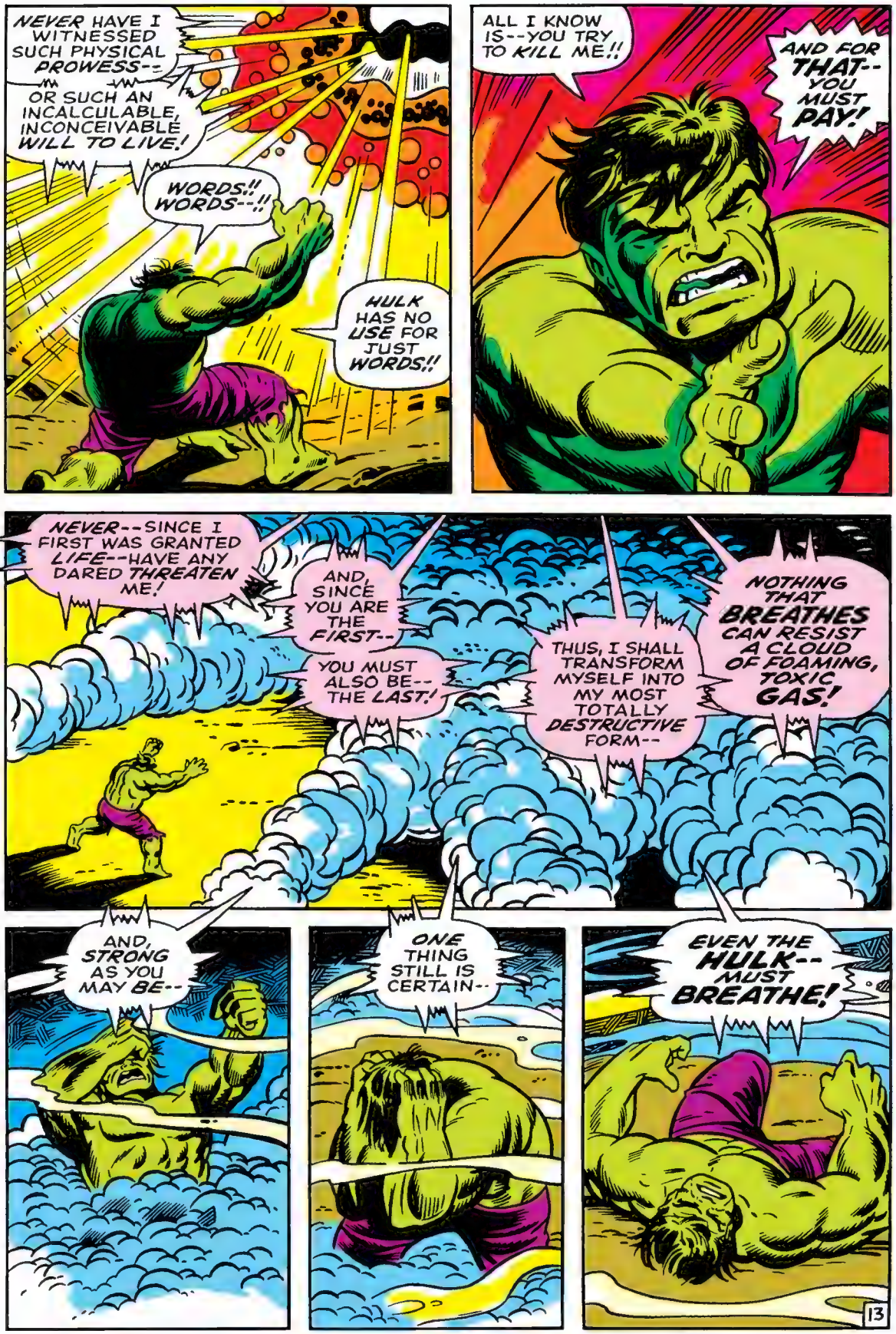
BUT THOSE WHO SPEAK SO NEGATIVELY OF SURVIVAL--THEY DO NOT KNOW--THE HULK--!!
PHOOOM!
BY CLAPPING MY HANDS HARD ENOUGH--
I KEEP THE FLAMES AWAY UNTIL I CAN ESCAPE!
AGAIN THE MONSTER HAS OVER-COME!
BUT NOT FOR LONG!
LOOK! THERE--IN THE SKY--!
I HAVE WEARIED OF OUR LITTLE GAME!
THUS, THE TIME IS COME TO END IT!
THE GALAXY MASTER IS HIM-SELF AGAIN!
THAT MEANS--THE END IS NEAR!
SECONDS LATER, WITHIN THE ROYAL THRONE ROOM--
THE MONSTER MUST NOT TRIUMPH!
WE MUST ACT--AT ONCE!
SPARE ME FURTHER PROOF OF YOUR COWARDICE, UNCLE!
WITH ALL MY HEART, I PRAY THAT THAT GALAXY MASTER SHALL FALL!
TOO LONG HAS HE ENSLAVED OUR GALAXY--OUR PLANET --AND OUR DOWN-TRODDEN PEOPLE!
TOO LONG HAVE WE BEEN FORCED TO SERVE HIS EVIL PURPOSE!
8

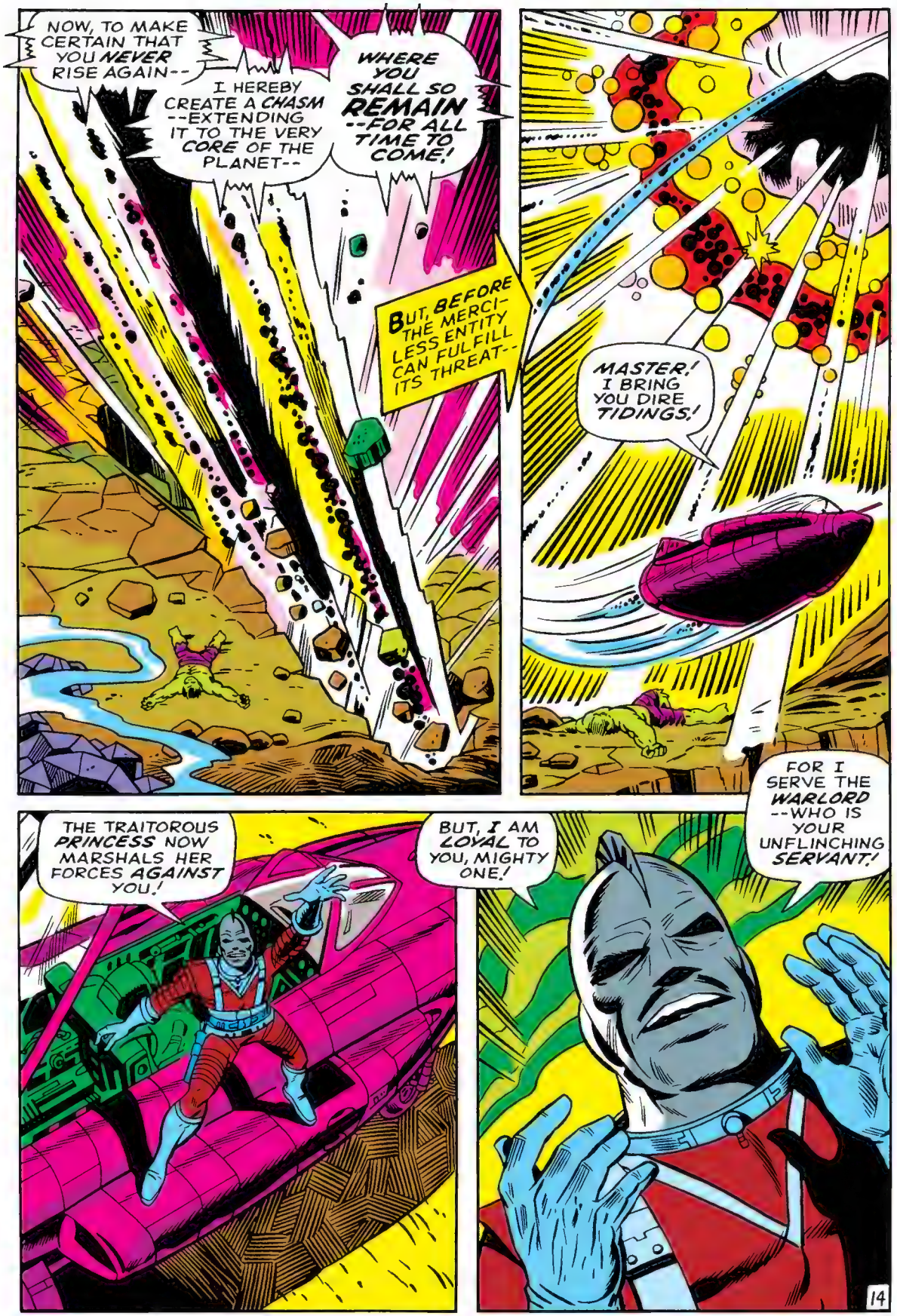

DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THE FEARFUL BEGINNING--THE AWESOME EVENTS WHICH HAVE REDUCED US TO CRINGING SERFS?!?!
HE WAS SPAWNED IN EVIL, WITH CREATURES OF EVIL--A THOUSAND UNIVERSES AWAY!
HE WAS ONE OF THEM--HE WAS TRULY THEIR BROTHER!
BUT HE WAS THE EVILLEST ONE OF ALL!
HE QUICKLY TURNED AGAINST THOSE WHO WERE A PART OF HIM--
AND DID NOT REST--UNTIL HE HAD DESTROYED THEM ALL!
BUT, HIS FIRST--HIS ONLY INSTINCT--WAS SELF PRESERVATION!
HE NEVER KNEW WHEN ANOTHER SUCH BEING MIGHT RISE TO CHALLENGE HIM! AND SO, HE DEVISED HIS UNSPEAKABLE PLAN--
HE WOULD ROAM THE COSMOS--DESTROYING EVERY WORLD HE FOUND--TO INSURE THAT NONE LIKE HIMSELF WOULD EVER AGAIN SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY!

"ONLY WE WERE SPARED--WHEN, IN OUR COWARDICE--TO OUR PERPETUAL SHAME--WE OFFERED TO SERVE HIM--IN HIS DESTRUCTION OF ALL PLANETARY LIFE!"
BUT NOW--PERHAPS FATE HERSELF HAS GIVEN US THE MEANS TO MAKE AMENDS--
--IF WE BUT DARE TO AID THE GALLANT, GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER!
DESIST!! I WILL HEAR NO MORE OF IT!!
THE GALAXY MASTER HAS SPARED US--PROTECTED US!
BECAUSE OF HIM, WE HAVE GAINED GREAT WEALTH!
NOTHING MUST CHANGE THAT NOW!
NOTHING!
WHO NOW INTRUDES??
IT IS MY HERALD!
SPEAK YOU! WHAT NEWS IS THERE?
A MIRACLE, YOUR HIGHNESS!
THE GREEN MONSTER STILL FIGHTS ON!
FOR THE FIRST TIME--OUR PEOPLE DARE TO HOPE--!!
10

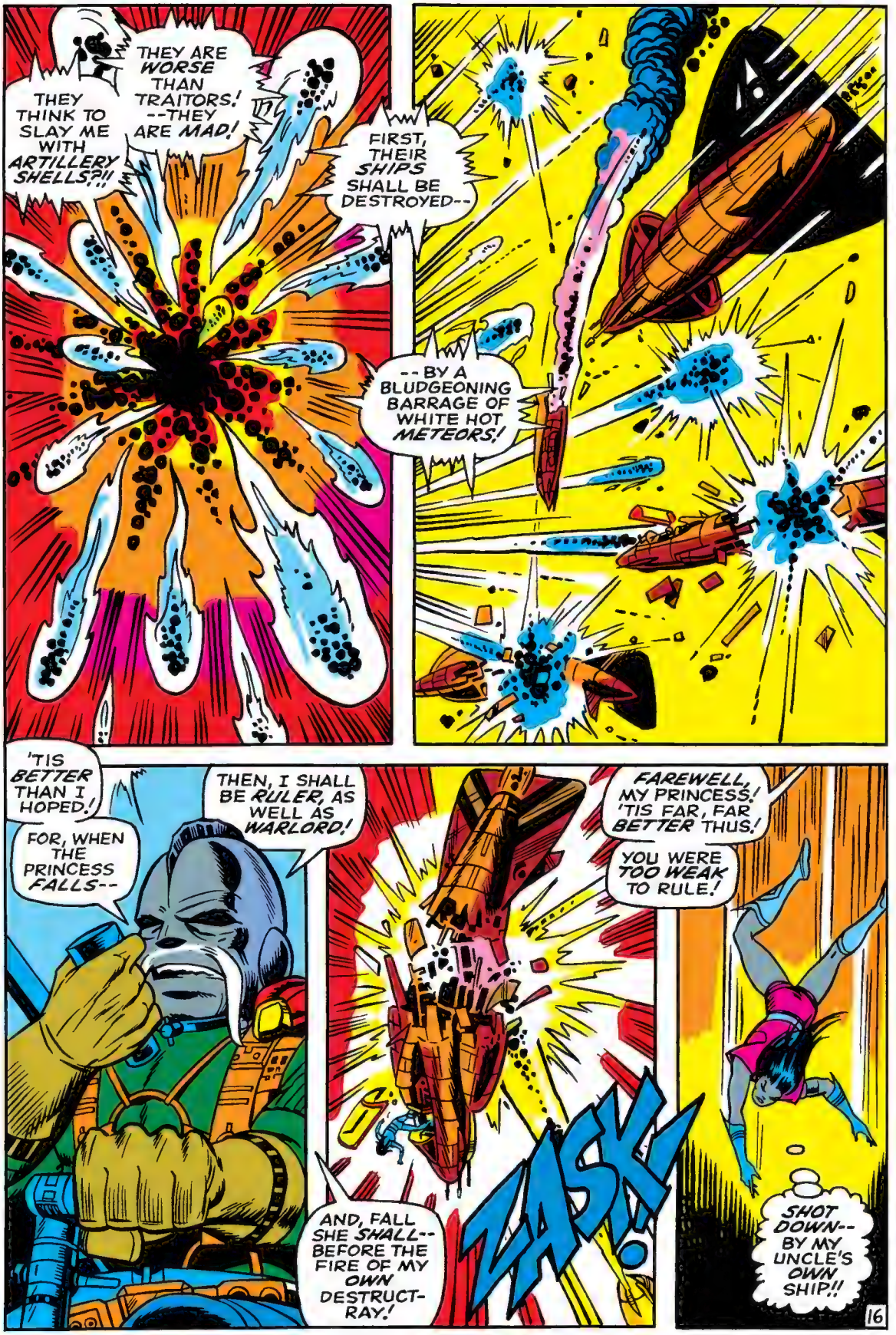

SAY WHAT YOU WILL, UNCLE!
'TIS BETTER TO PERISH FOR A CAUSE--THAN LIVE IN BONDAGE!
I SHALL CAST OUR LOT--WITH THE MONSTER!
SENTRY!! TO MY SIDE! YOUR WARLORD COMMANDS!
YOU DID SUMMON ME, SIRE?
GO AT ONCE TO THE GALAXY MASTER!
HIS GRATITUDE TO US SHALL BE WELL-NIGH BOUNDLESS!
WARN HIM THAT THE PRINCESS NOW LEADS A FORBIDDEN REVOLT!
WITHIN SECONDS, THE PLANETARY FORCES ARE ASSEMBLED--
--WHILE ONE SHIP PREPARES TO FOIL THE ATTACK--!
I MUST DO AS THE WARLORD COMMANDS!

MEANWHILE, THE TITANIC BATTLE BETWEEN TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL LIVING ENTITIES CONTINUES TO RAGE--
THOUGH THE INCREDIBLE HULK IS SUBJECTED TO DEADLY FORCES BEYOND MORTAL DESCRIPTION--
--STILL DOES THE INDESCRIBABLE GAMMA RAY ENERGY WITHIN HIS MASSIVE FRAME CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN HIM--
STILL DOES HIS MIGHTY HEART BEAT ON--AS HIS ALL-CONSUMING RAGE INCREASES WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND--!


NEVER HAVE I WITNESSED SUCH PHYSICAL PROWESS--
OR SUCH AN INCALCULABLE, INCONCEIVABLE WILL TO LIVE!
WORDS!! WORDS--!!
HULK HAS NO USE FOR JUST WORDS!!
ALL I KNOW IS--YOU TRY TO KILL ME!!
AND FOR THAT-- YOU MUST PAY!
NEVER--SINCE I FIRST WAS GRANTED LIFE--HAVE ANY DARED THREATEN ME!
AND, SINCE YOU ARE THE FIRST--
YOU MUST ALSO BE-- THE LAST!
THUS, I SHALL TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO MY MOST TOTALLY DESTRUCTIVE FORM--
NOTHING THAT BREATHES CAN RESIST A CLOUD OF FOAMING, TOXIC GAS!
AND, STRONG AS YOU MAY BE--
ONE THING STILL IS CERTAIN--
EVEN THE HULK-- MUST BREATHE!
13


NOW, TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU NEVER RISE AGAIN--
I HEREBY CREATE A CHASM --EXTENDING IT TO THE VERY CORE OF THE PLANET--
WHERE YOU SHALL SO REMAIN --FOR ALL TIME TO COME!
BUT, BEFORE THE MERCILESS ENTITY CAN FULFILL ITS THREAT--
MASTER! I BRING YOU DIRE TIDINGS!
THE TRAITOROUS PRINCESS NOW MARSHALS HER FORCES AGAINST YOU!
BUT, I AM LOYAL TO YOU, MIGHTY ONE!
FOR I SERVE THE WARLORD --WHO IS YOUR UNFLINCHING SERVANT!
14

EVEN AS I SPEAK, HER FLEET ATTACKS!
BUT I FEEL NO FEAR--
FOR YOU WILL PROTECT ME!
PROTECT YOU? YOU, WHO ARE LESS TO ME THAN A FLEETING THOUGHT!
THE GALAXY MASTER PROTECTS ONLY HIMSELF!
HE HAS BEEN FOREWARNED!
WE CANNOT PENETRATE HIS DEFENSES!
DEATH TO THE GALAXY MASTER!!
SEE, SIRE!
IT IS EXACTLY AS YOU DID PREDICT!
THE REBELLION IS DOOMED TO FAILURE!
FIRE!
OF COURSE!
WHAT ARE MERE WEAPONS AGAINST THE POWER OF THE GALAXY MASTER?!!
WITHIN MINUTES, THE PRINCESS' LEGIONS WILL BE TURNED TO ASHES!
15


THEY THINK TO SLAY ME WITH ARTILLERY SHELLS?!!
THEY ARE WORSE THAN TRAITORS! --THEY ARE MAD!
FIRST, THEIR SHIPS SHALL BE DESTROYED--
--BY A BLUDGEONING BARRAGE OF WHITE HOT METEORS!
'TIS BETTER THAN I HOPED!
FOR, WHEN THE PRINCESS FALLS--
THEN, I SHALL BE RULER, AS WELL AS WARLORD!
AND, FALL SHE SHALL-- BEFORE THE FIRE OF MY OWN DESTRUCT-RAY!
ZASK!
FAREWELL, MY PRINCESS! 'TIS FAR, FAR BETTER THUS!
YOU WERE TOO WEAK TO RULE!
SHOT DOWN-- BY MY UNCLE'S OWN SHIP!!

BUT SUDDENLY--
BEHOLD!!
OUR PRINCESS NOW IS HOSTAGE!
THE GALAXY MASTER HAS MIRACULOUSLY ENSNARED HER--
ALL IS LOST!
THOUGH MY LIFE IS SPARED--HE HAS CAUGHT ME IN A FIELD OF FORCE--
WHICH, EVEN NOW--DRAWS ME UPWARD TO A FATE I DARE NOT CONTEMPLATE!
BUT, THRU IT ALL--ONE FIGURE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY FORGOTTEN--
A MASSIVE MIGHTY FIGURE--WHO STIRS --THEN RISES--
THEN CRIES--
UP IN SKY! A BEAM--GOING TOWARDS--MY ENEMY!
HULK MUST REACH IT--BEFORE IT FADES!
IF I FOLLOW--IT MAY BE ONE CHANCE TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH--WAIT!!
INSIDE OF BEAM--GIRL IS TRAPPED!
MAYBE HULK CAN SAVE HER!
17

GOING FASTER-- FASTER--
DISAPPEARING RIGHT INTO CENTER--RIGHT INSIDE--OF THING IN SKY!
NO! I WANTED THE FEMALE-- AS A HOSTAGE!!
NOT YOU!!
TOO LATE!
HULK IS HERE!
AND I CAN SMASH ANYTHING YOU THROW AGAINST ME!
BUT THIS TIME--YOU ARE AFRAID!
YOU CAN'T USE GAS-- OR DEADLY WEAPONS!
AT THAT MOMENT, A SMALL PART OF BRUCE BANNER'S DEDUCTIVE GENIUS SEEMS TO SEEP THRU THE MONSTER'S CLOUDED BRAIN, ENABLING HIM TO REALIZE--
--BECAUSE I AM INSIDE OF YOU!
ANYTHING STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL ME-- WILL ALSO KILL--YOU!
STAY BACK! STAY BACK! COME NO FURTHER!!
FOR THE FIRST TIME-- HULK HEARS-- PANIC IN YOUR VOICE!
NOW I KNOW-- WHAT I MUST DO--!
SKROK OW!

THE EVIL ONE IS DESTROYED!!
BUT HULK MUST SAVE WOMAN!
HE IS DEAD!
THE GALAXY MASTER IS NO MORE!
THE MONSTER HAS SLAIN OUR OPPRESSOR!
WE ARE FREE-- FREE AT LAST!
HULK WILL NOT LET INNOCENT PERSON DIE!
THPOOM!
IT WAS YOU --YOU WHO HAVE BETRAYED US!
NO! YOU'LL NEVER BRING ME TO TASK-- NEVER!
AND NOW --YOU MUST PAY!
LOOK OUT!
AHHHHHHH...
TRAITOR!
YOUR OWN COWARDICE HAS DESTROYED YOU!
YYHHHHHHHHHHH
THIS WORLD --IS MAD! HULK WANTS NO MORE OF IT!
IT SHALL BE AS YOU WISH!
THOUGH YOU HAVE DONE US THE GREATEST SERVICE-- YOUR PLACE IS NOT HERE!
19

OUR RACE HAS MUCH TO ATONE FOR--BUT WE MUST DO SO ALONE!
SO, WE SHALL SEND THE GREEN GIANT BACK FROM WHENCE HE CAME!
IT WILL TAKE LESS THAN HALF A DAY TO ADJUST THE VESSEL'S CABIN PRESSURE--
NO! HULK WILL NOT WAIT!
HULK CAN LIVE IN ANY PRESSURE! START SHIP NOW!
NOW!! HULK MUST LEAVE THIS WORLD-- NOW!!
AND SO--A FEW HEARTBEATS LATER--
BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, STARTLINGLY, THE UNEXPECTED OCCURS--
NO! IT MUST NOT HAPPEN-- SO SOON!!
THERE, IN AN UN-PRESSURIZED CABIN-- IN WHICH NO NORMAL HUMAN COULD SURVIVE--
--BACK TO WEAK, VULNERABLE, HELPLESS-- BRUCE BANNER!!
I'M CHANGING-- CHANGING--!!
THE AIR--TOO THIN--FOR ME TO BREATHE--!!
AND--THE PRESSURE --MORE-- THAN I CAN --BEAR--!
TO BE HULK-INUED
20

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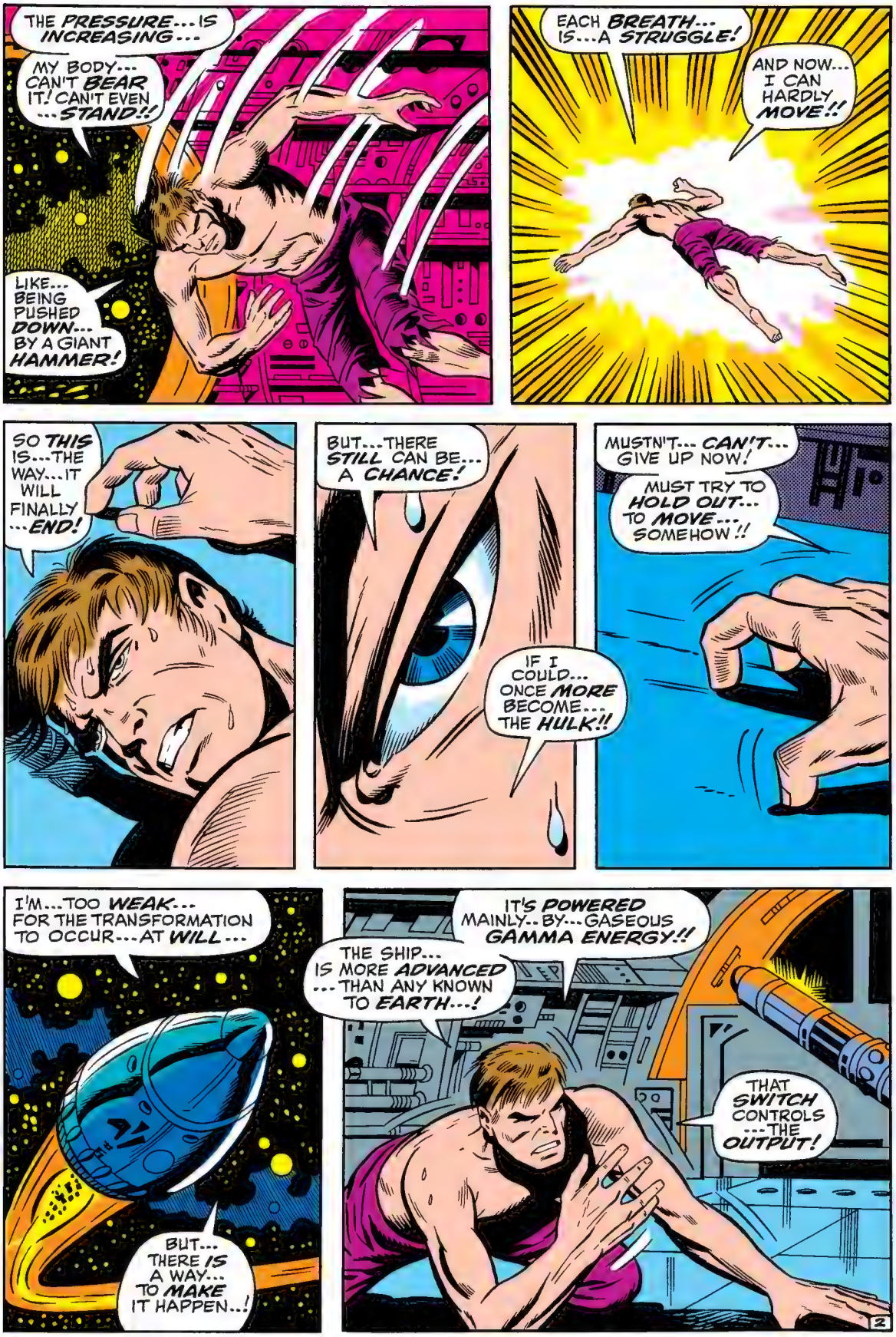
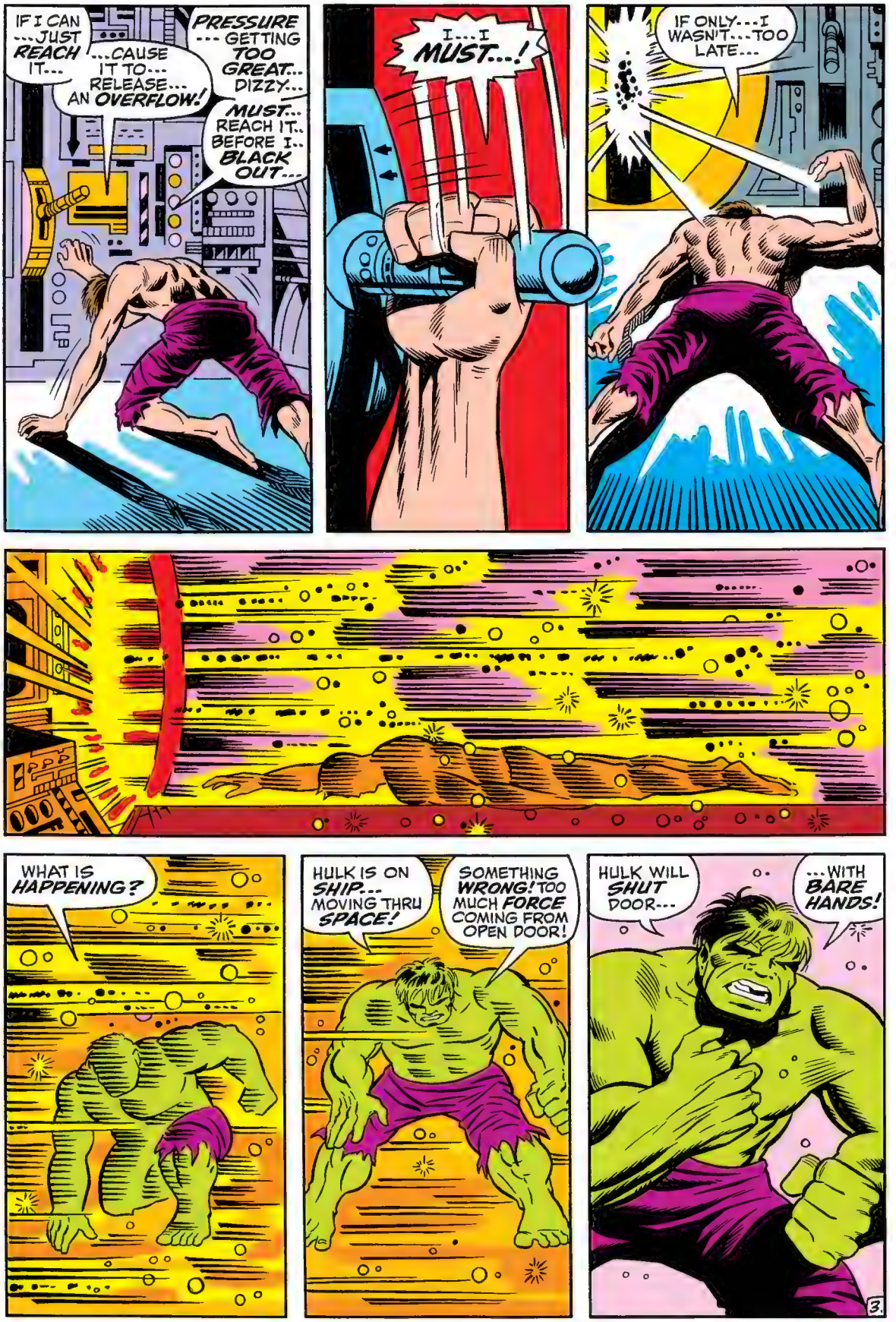
WHERE FALL THE SHIFTING SANDS!

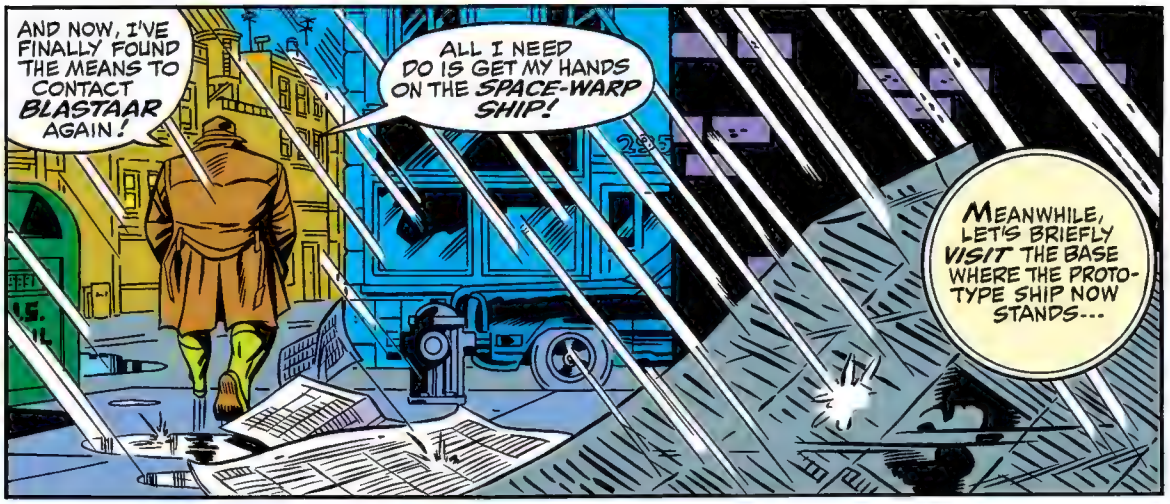
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
WHERE FALL THE SHIFTING SANDS
WHEN I WAS PLACED IN THIS STAR SHIP... BOUND FOR EARTH... I WAS IN THE FORM OF...THE HULK!!
THOSE WHO SENT ME...DIDN'T DREAM... I'D CHANGE BACK... BACK TO THE VULNERABLE BRUCE BANNER!
AND...WHERE THE HULK... IS ABLE TO SURVIVE... THE LACK OF OXYGEN... THE CRUSHING PRESSURE ...WITHIN THIS CABIN...
BRUCE BANNER ...CAN NOT!!
PROUDLY PRODUCED BY: SMILIN' STAN LEE and HAPPY HERBY TRIMPE
EMBELLISHMENT DAN ADKINS
LETTERING SAM ROSEN


THE PRESSURE... IS INCREASING...
MY BODY... CAN'T BEAR IT! CAN'T EVEN ...STAND!!
LIKE... BEING PUSHED DOWN... BY A GIANT HAMMER!
EACH BREATH... IS...A STRUGGLE!
AND NOW... I CAN HARDLY MOVE!!
SO THIS IS...THE WAY...IT WILL FINALLY ...END!
BUT...THERE STILL CAN BE... A CHANCE!
IF I COULD... ONCE MORE BECOME... THE HULK!!
MUSTN'T... CAN'T... GIVE UP NOW!
MUST TRY TO HOLD OUT... TO MOVE... SOMEHOW!!
I'M...TOO WEAK... FOR THE TRANSFORMATION TO OCCUR...AT WILL...
BUT... THERE IS A WAY... TO MAKE IT HAPPEN...!
IT'S POWERED MAINLY...BY...GASEOUS GAMMA ENERGY!!
THE SHIP... IS MORE ADVANCED ...THAN ANY KNOWN TO EARTH...!
THAT SWITCH CONTROLS ...THE OUTPUT!
2


IF I CAN ...JUST REACH IT...
...CAUSE IT TO... RELEASE... AN OVERFLOW!
PRESSURE ... GETTING TOO GREAT... DIZZY...
MUST... REACH IT.. BEFORE I.. BLACK OUT...
I...I MUST...!
IF ONLY...I WASN'T...TOO LATE...
WHAT IS HAPPENING?
HULK IS ON SHIP... MOVING THRU SPACE!
SOMETHING WRONG! TOO MUCH FORCE COMING FROM OPEN DOOR!
HULK WILL SHUT DOOR...
...WITH BARE HANDS!
3.

BUT, EVEN AS THE HULK UNWITTINGLY SAVES HIMSELF---AND HIS SHIP--- ANOTHER THREAD IS ABOUT TO BE WOVEN INTO THE TUMULTUOUS TAPESTRY OF HIS LIFE---
THAT'LL BE A DIME, MAC!
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW!
CHARACTERS! ALL DAY LONG--- I GET CHARACTERS!
BUT, COULD THE BORED NEWSDEALER SEE THE SHADOW-HIDDEN FEATURES OF HIS SULLEN CUSTOMER, HIS REACTION MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT---!
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR---
A SHIP THAT CAN BRIDGE THE DIMENSIONS OF SPACE!
NEW A.F. SPACE-WARP SHIP TO BE TESTED...
---A SHIP WITH WHICH THE SANDMAN COULD REACH THE NEGATIVE ZONE ITSELF---
TO BRING BACK BLASTAAR--- THE MOST POWERFUL ALLY OF ALL!
THEN, AT LONG LAST, I COULD HAVE THE REVENGE I SEEK--- UPON THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!
HOW WELL I REMEMBER ---THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT---
I WAS SO SURE THAT I HAD FINALLY BEATEN THEM ---FOREVER!*
*FROM FANTASTIC FOUR #62! --- SMILEY.
4.

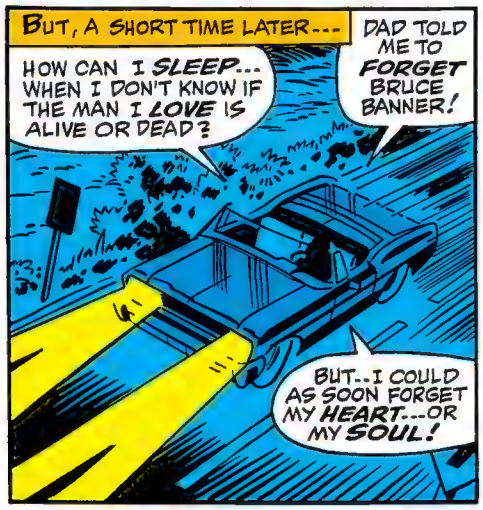
"HOW COULD I HAVE GUESSED THAT RICHARDS, AT THE LAST MINUTE, WOULD BE HURLED INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE...?
"...ONLY TO BE RESCUED BY HIS BUMBLING PARTNERS, AND THE INHUMAN KNOWN AS TRITON!"
"BUT, FOR ONCE, THE FF CREATED A GREATER DANGER THAN THEY DESTROYED--"
"FOR, THEY DID NOT RETURN FROM THE NEGATIVE ZONE ALONE! ---ANOTHER HAD FOLLOWED THEM BACK TO EARTH--!
...THE LIVING BOMB-BURST... BLASTAAR!"
"BLASTAAR---WHO SOON BECAME MY ALLY AS WE BATTLED THE FANTASTIC FOUR TOGETHER!"
"BUT, LUCK WAS AGAINST US ...AND THE FOURSOME WERE TRIUMPHANT!"
"WHILE I CHANGED TO TINY GLOBULES OF SAND---MAKING MY ESCAPE IN THE SEA!"
"BLASTAAR FOUND REFUGE IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE ONCE MORE---"
"--WHERE, UPON EMERGING, I HAVE SPENT EVERY HOUR... EVERY WAKING MINUTE...PLANNING MY ULTIMATE REVENGE!"

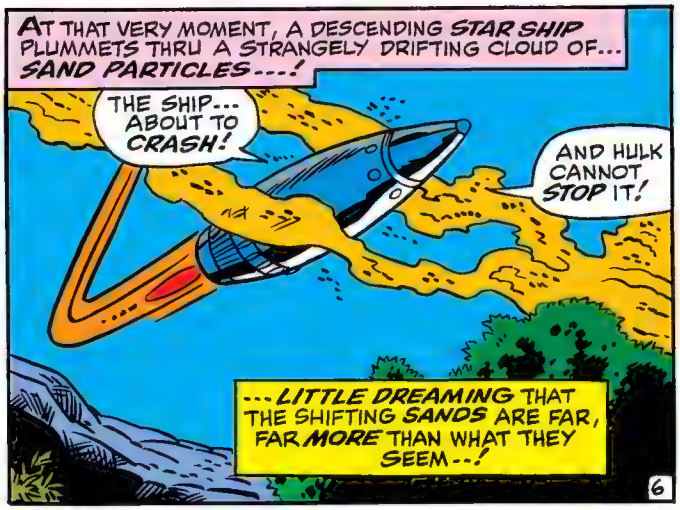

AND NOW, I'VE FINALLY FOUND THE MEANS TO CONTACT BLASTAAR AGAIN!
ALL I NEED DO IS GET MY HANDS ON THE SPACE-WARP SHIP!
MEANWHILE, LET'S BRIEFLY VISIT THE BASE WHERE THE PROTO-TYPE SHIP NOW STANDS---

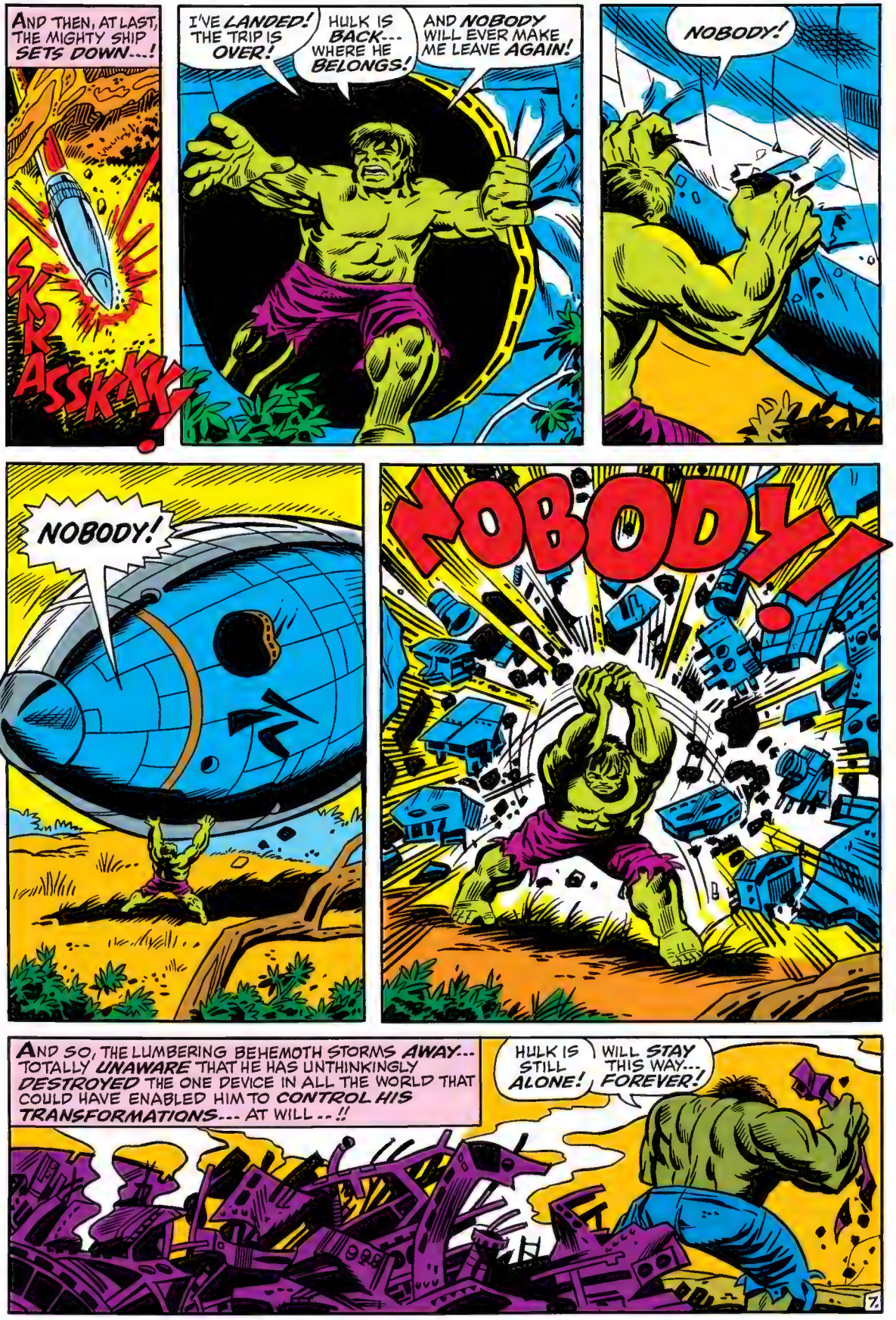
---THE BASE WHEREIN WE FIND THE DAUGHTER OF GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS---
IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T SLEEP!
I'VE GOT TO LEARN IF THERE'S ANY NEWS ABOUT BRUCE!

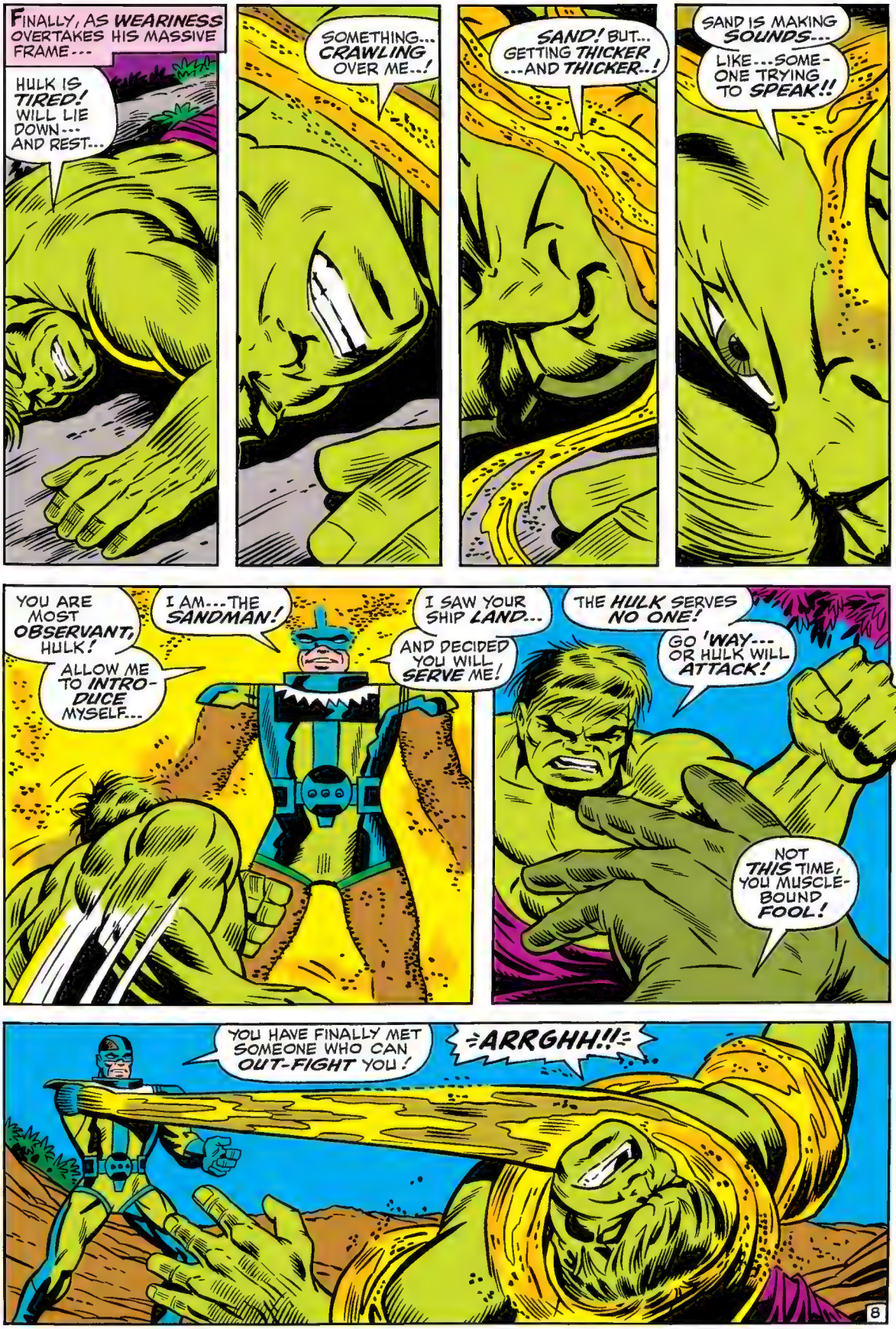
HE MUST BE ALIVE! HE MUST!
IF HE WEREN'T --- MY HEART WOULD KNOW IT---SOMEHOW!

I TOLD YOU I'D CALL IF THERE WAS ANY WORD!
NOW GET BACK TO SLEEP, BETTY! THE DOCTOR SAID YOU NEED LOTS OF REST SINCE LEAVING THE HOSPITAL!
AND, ONCE AND FOR ALL... FORGET BRUCE BANNER!!

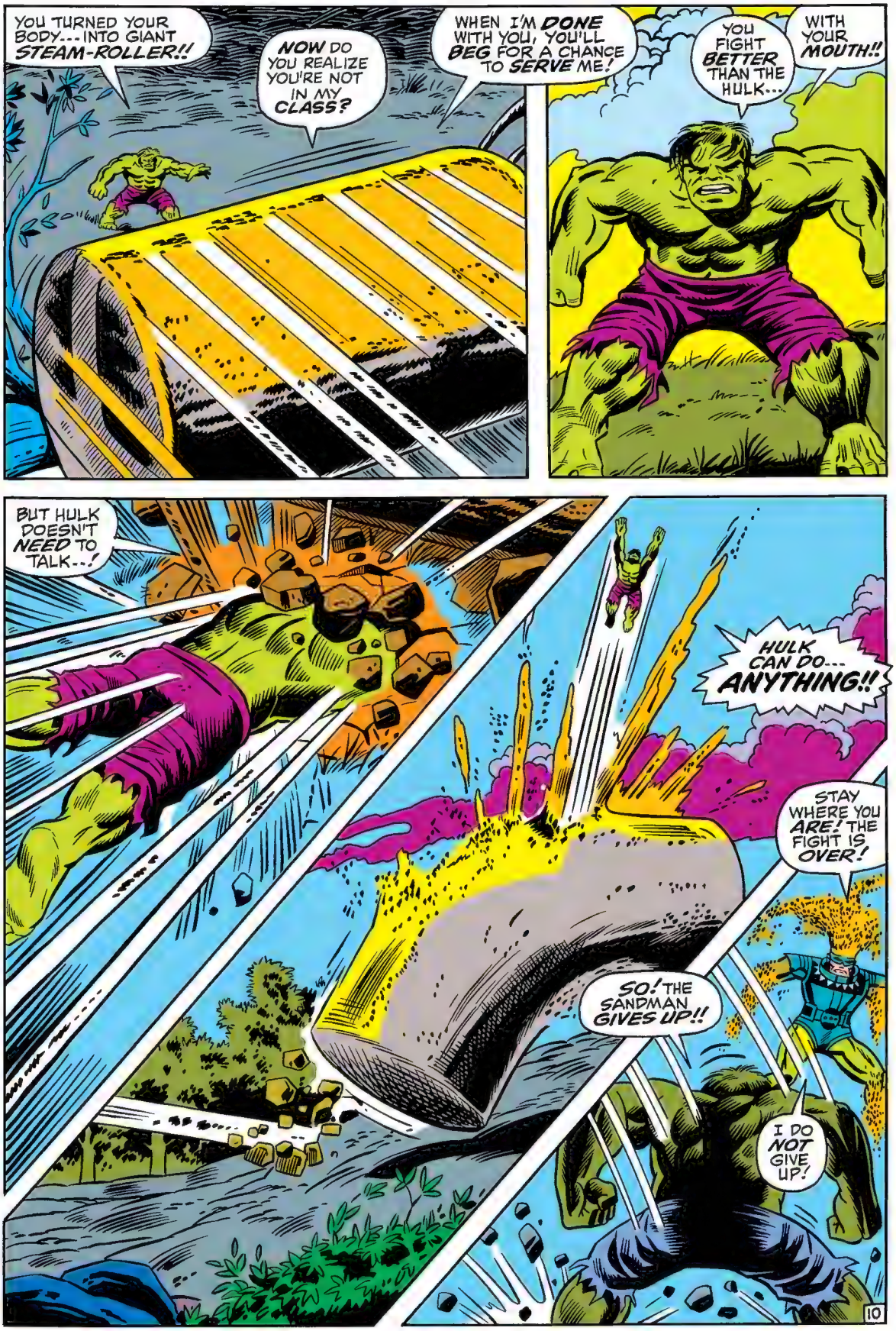

BUT, A SHORT TIME LATER---
HOW CAN I SLEEP... WHEN I DON'T KNOW IF THE MAN I LOVE IS ALIVE OR DEAD?
DAD TOLD ME TO FORGET BRUCE BANNER!
BUT--I COULD AS SOON FORGET MY HEART---OR MY SOUL!

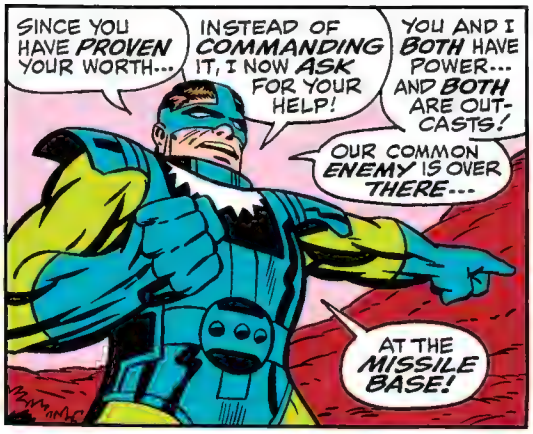

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A DESCENDING STAR SHIP PLUMMETS THRU A STRANGELY DRIFTING CLOUD OF... SAND PARTICLES---!
THE SHIP... ABOUT TO CRASH!
AND HULK CANNOT STOP IT!
---LITTLE DREAMING THAT THE SHIFTING SANDS ARE FAR, FAR MORE THAN WHAT THEY SEEM--!


AND THEN, AT LAST, THE MIGHTY SHIP SETS DOWN---!
SKR ASSKKK!
I'VE LANDED! THE TRIP IS OVER!
HULK IS BACK--- WHERE HE BELONGS!
AND NOBODY WILL EVER MAKE ME LEAVE AGAIN!
NOBODY!
NOBODY!
NOBODY!
AND SO, THE LUMBERING BEHEMOTH STORMS AWAY--- TOTALLY UNAWARE THAT HE HAS UNTHINKINGLY DESTROYED THE ONE DEVICE IN ALL THE WORLD THAT COULD HAVE ENABLED HIM TO CONTROL HIS TRANSFORMATIONS--- AT WILL--!!
HULK IS STILL ALONE!
WILL STAY THIS WAY--- FOREVER!

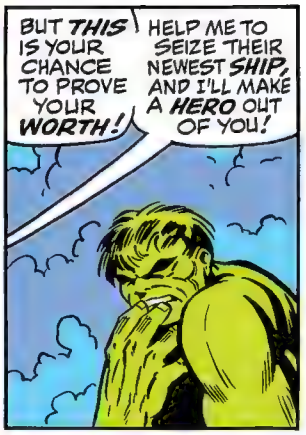

FINALLY, AS WEARINESS OVERTAKES HIS MASSIVE FRAME---
HULK IS TIRED! WILL LIE DOWN--- AND REST...
SOMETHING... CRAWLING OVER ME...!
SAND! BUT... GETTING THICKER ...AND THICKER...!
SAND IS MAKING SOUNDS...
LIKE...SOMEONE TRYING TO SPEAK!!
YOU ARE MOST OBSERVANT, HULK!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...
I AM...THE SANDMAN!
I SAW YOUR SHIP LAND...
AND DECIDED YOU WILL SERVE ME!
THE HULK SERVES NO ONE!
GO 'WAY--- OR HULK WILL ATTACK!
NOT THIS TIME, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND FOOL!
YOU HAVE FINALLY MET SOMEONE WHO CAN OUT-FIGHT YOU!
=ARRGHH!!=
8

NO ONE OUT-FIGHTS THE HULK!
NOT HERE! NOT NOW! NOT EVER!
YOU KING-SIZED CLOWN---
NOW SEE WHAT THE HULK CAN DO!!
NOBODY CAN LIFT THAT BOULDER!
HULK CAN!!
AND HULK CAN THROW IT, TOO!
NOW IT'S MY TURN!
MY TURN TO SHOW YOU REAL POWER..!
THIS IS WHY NO BRAINLESS, BUMBLING HUMAN GORILLA CAN EVER BEAT ...THE SAND-MAN!
HULK CAN BEAT ANYONE!
I'M STILL THE STRONGEST ONE OF ALL!!
9

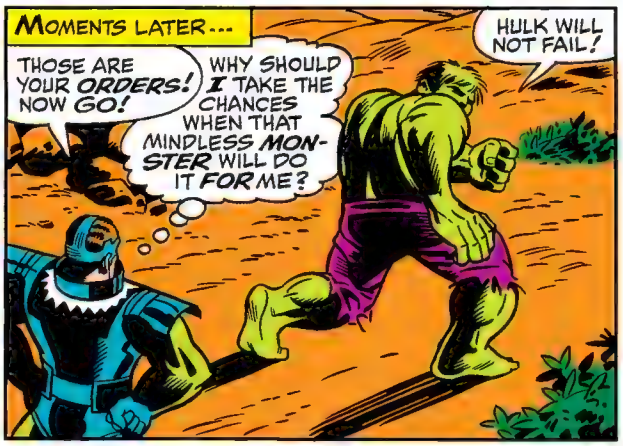

YOU TURNED YOUR BODY--- INTO GIANT STEAM-ROLLER!!
NOW DO YOU REALIZE YOU'RE NOT IN MY CLASS?
WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU, YOU'LL BEG FOR A CHANCE TO SERVE ME!
YOU FIGHT BETTER THAN THE HULK...
WITH YOUR MOUTH!!
BUT HULK DOESN'T NEED TO TALK--!
HULK CAN DO--- ANYTHING!!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE! THE FIGHT IS OVER!
SO! THE SANDMAN GIVES UP!!
I DO NOT GIVE UP!
10


SINCE YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR WORTH...
INSTEAD OF COMMANDING IT, I NOW ASK FOR YOUR HELP!
YOU AND I BOTH HAVE POWER... AND BOTH ARE OUT-CASTS!
OUR COMMON ENEMY IS OVER THERE...
AT THE MISSILE BASE!

THINK HOW THEY'VE HUNTED YOU... HOUNDED YOU... LIKE SOME SAVAGE, DEADLY BEAST!!
THINK--- HOW THEY'VE TURNED THE ENTIRE WORLD AGAINST YOU!


BUT THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE YOUR WORTH!
HELP ME TO SEIZE THEIR NEWEST SHIP, AND I'LL MAKE A HERO OUT OF YOU!

YOU TALK SO FAST---I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
BUT IF YOU MAKE THEM STOP HATING ME--- HULK WILL HELP YOU!
I THOUGHT I COULD CONFUSE HIM!

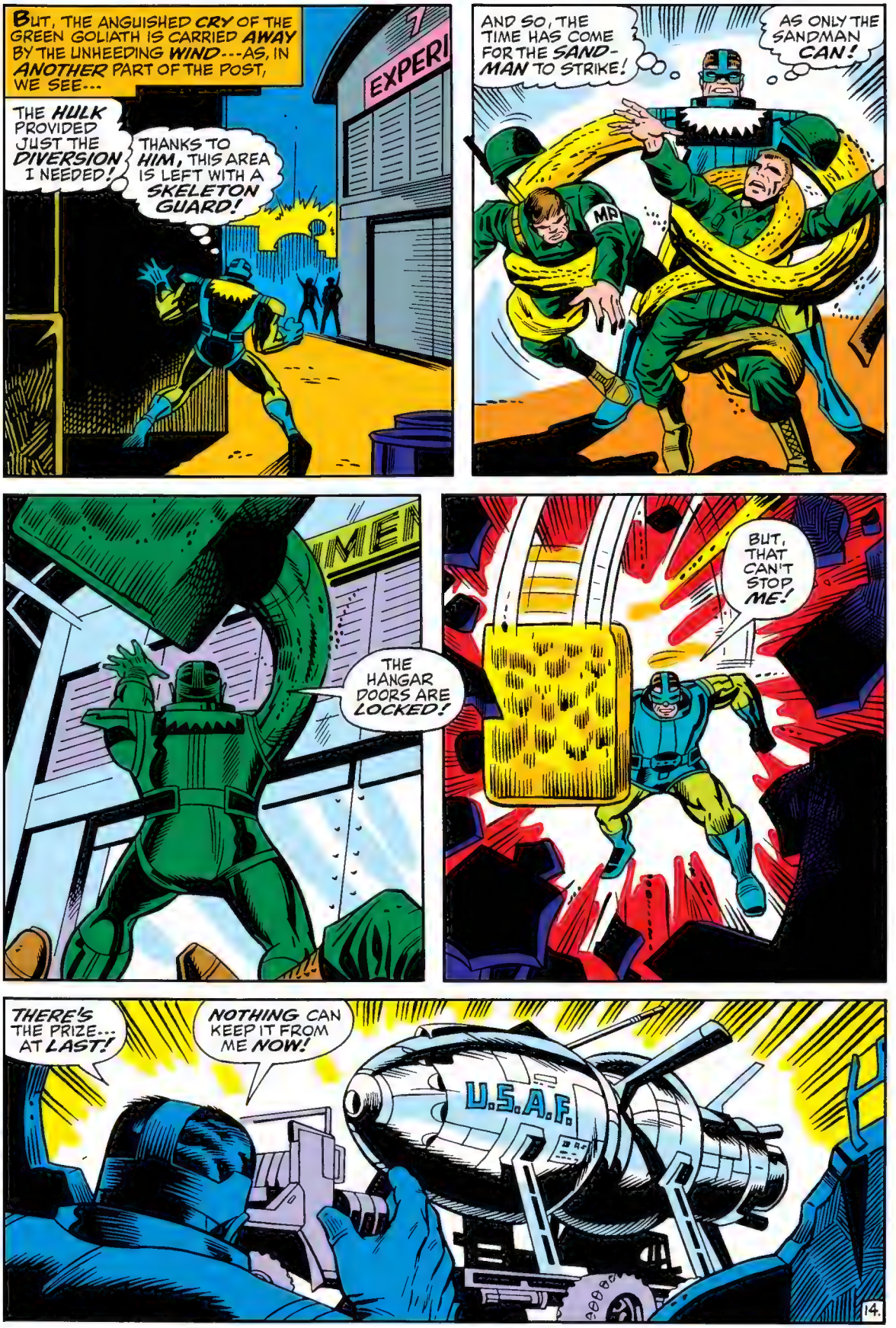

MOMENTS LATER...
THOSE ARE YOUR ORDERS! NOW GO!
WHY SHOULD I TAKE THE CHANCES WHEN THAT MINDLESS MONSTER WILL DO IT FOR ME?
HULK WILL NOT FAIL!

BUT, NEARING THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE HEAVILY-GUARDED BASE... SOME DEEP-ROOTED INSTINCT, FROM THE PART OF HIM WHICH IS STILL BRUCE BANNER... COMES TO THE FORE...
WAIT! HULK CANNOT ATTACK THAT PLACE!!
BETTY BRANT IS THERE! SHE MIGHT BE HURT!

HOWEVER, HE HAS COME TOO CLOSE... DELAYED TOO LONG---
OUR RADAR-SCANNER HAS PICKED UP AN APPROACHING OBJECT---!
OBJECT, MY FOOT!! IT'S...THE HULK!!
HE'S ATTACKING!!
ALERT ALL FORCES! CONDITION RED!

AGAIN THEY ATTACK THE HULK---BEFORE I CAN EXPLAIN!
BUT THIS TIME ...I'LL FIGHT BACK!
THE SANDMAN WAS RIGHT!
THEY ARE THE ENEMY!
AND THE ENEMY... MUST BE SMASHED!!
HULK! LISTEN TO ME!
SURRENDER! WE DON'T WANT TO HARM YOU!
YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
DON'T MAKE US USE ATOMIC FORCE!
12

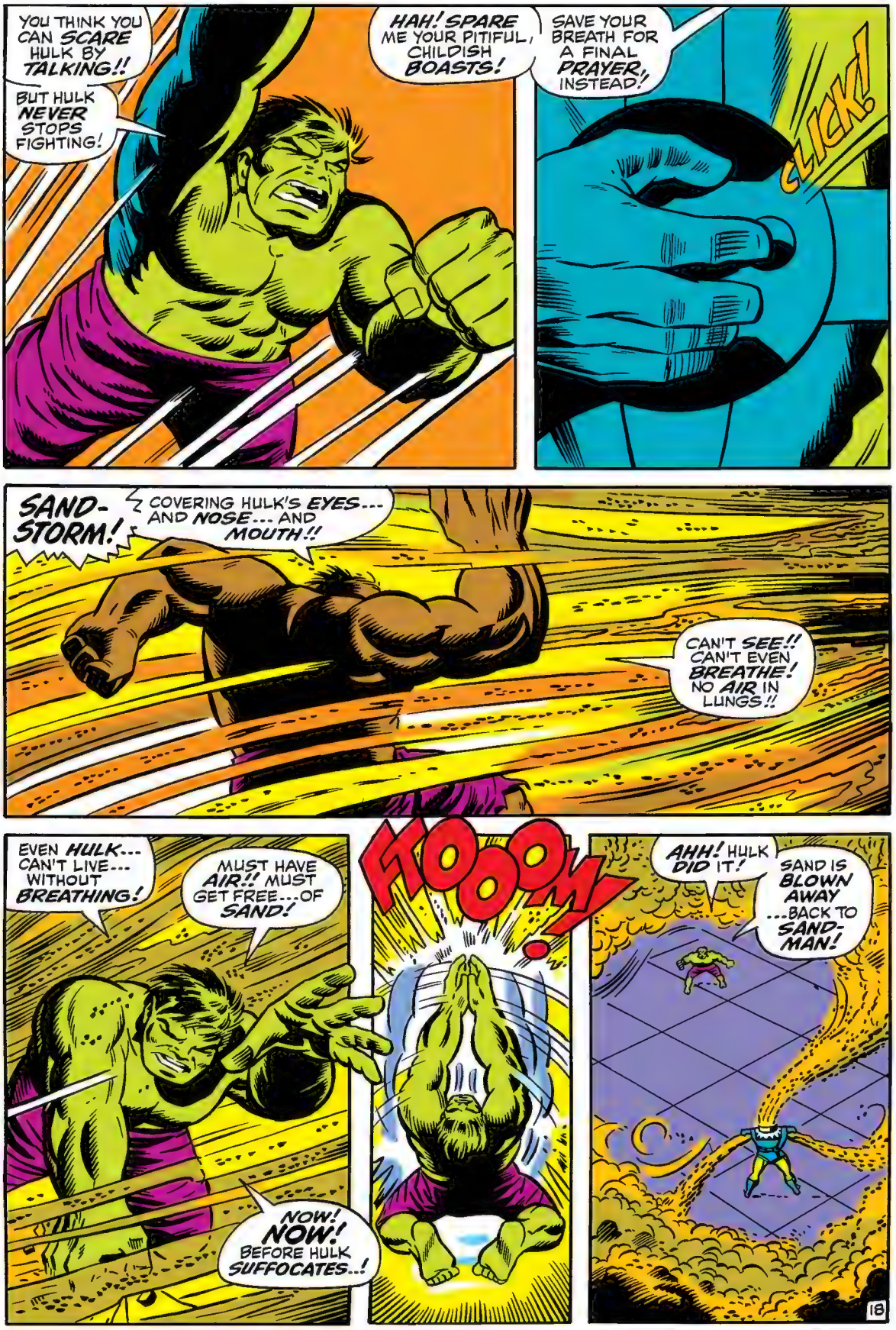
BUT, IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE...OVER THE ROAR OF GUNFIRE AND EXPLODING SHELLS... THE HULK CANNOT HEAR---
AND, EVEN IF HE COULD---WE WONDER---IS IT TOO LATE TO DAMPEN THE BLAZING FURY IN HIS HEART...??
BUR-OOM
KRAS-K!
SUDDENLY, AS A FATEFUL SILENCE FALLS OVER THE EMBATTLED BASE...
THIS ISN'T WHAT HULK WANTED!
WHY AM I FIGHTING? WHY AM I HERE?
WHY DID I LISTEN TO SANDMAN??
13.


BUT, THE ANGUISHED CRY OF THE GREEN GOLIATH IS CARRIED AWAY BY THE UNHEEDING WIND---AS, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE POST, WE SEE---
THE HULK PROVIDED JUST THE DIVERSION I NEEDED!
THANKS TO HIM, THIS AREA IS LEFT WITH A SKELETON GUARD!
EXPERI
AND SO, THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE SAND-MAN TO STRIKE!
AS ONLY THE SANDMAN CAN!
MP
THE HANGAR DOORS ARE LOCKED!
BUT, THAT CAN'T STOP ME!
THERE'S THE PRIZE... AT LAST!
NOTHING CAN KEEP IT FROM ME NOW!
U.S.A.F.
14.

I'LL BE ON MY WAY BEFORE ANYONE CAN... WAIT!!
A CAR... COMING TOWARDS ME!! TOO FAST TO SWERVE OUT OF THE WAY!
USAF
CAN'T AFFORD TO STOP NOW! I'LL HAVE TO RAM IT!
IT'LL BE CRUSHED LIKE AN EGGSHELL!
BUT SUDDENLY, THE INCREDIBLE HULK RECOGNIZES THE CAR'S LONE OCCUPANT...
BETTY!! --AND SANDMAN... ABOUT TO CRASH INTO HER!
HIS TRUCK WILL KILL HER!!
AND HE DOESN'T EVEN TRY TO STOP!
BUT HULK WILL STOP HIM!!
YOU FOOL! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING ME!
YOU TRIED TO KILL GIRL IN CAR!
THAT MAKES YOU THE HULK'S ENEMY!!
YOU ARE THE ONE HULK MUST FIGHT... HULK MUST DESTROY!
15

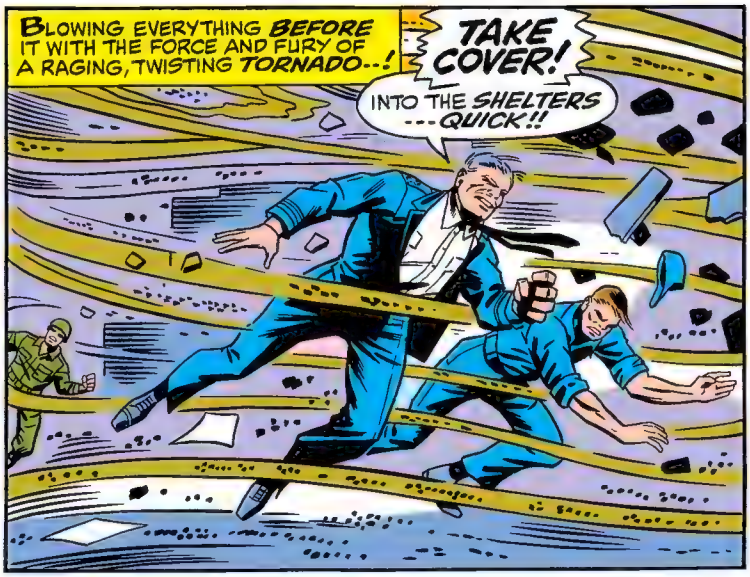
YOUR DAUGHTER IS SAFE, GENERAL!
I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET BETTY WHILE THEY BATTLE!
AND THE MISSILE IS STILL INTACT!
HURRY, MAN!
IF WE'RE LUCKY, THEY'LL FINISH EACH OTHER OFF!
YOU DIM-WITTED GARGOYLE!! SINCE I NO LONGER NEED YOU...
I'M THRU PULLING MY PUNCHES!!
BLOK!
HERE'S A SOLIDIFIED SAND BLAST TO CHEW ON!
YOUR POWER MIGHT STOP ANYONE ELSE...
BUT NOW ...YOU FACE ...THE HULK!
SKRA SKK!
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE... NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE...
NOTHING CAN STOP THE HULK!
16

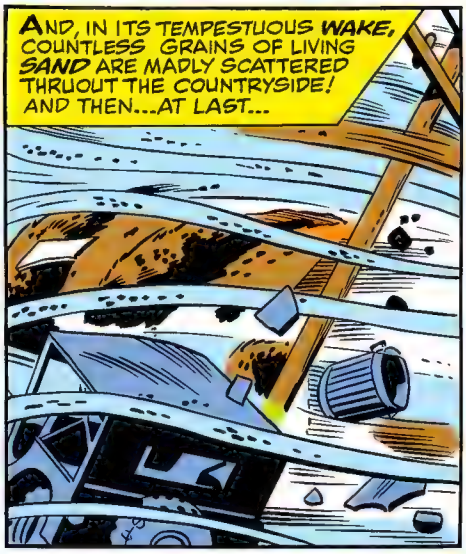
WHEN YOU FALL TO GROUND AGAIN---
HULK WILL BE WAITING!
THAT'S WHAT I'M COUNTING ON!
---BECAUSE THIS IS THE WAY I INTEND TO FALL!!
---AS A SOLID BLOCK OF GRANITE!
NOT EVEN THAT CAN HARM THE HULK!!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL RE-FORM AND LAUNCH ANOTHER ATTACK!
REMEMBER---YOU HAVE ONLY BRUTE STRENGTH TO FALL BACK ON---
WHILE MY POWER---
---IS ALMOST UNLIMITED!
THE ONLY QUESTION REMAINING NOW, IS...
HOW QUICKLY SHOULD I KILL YOU??
17.

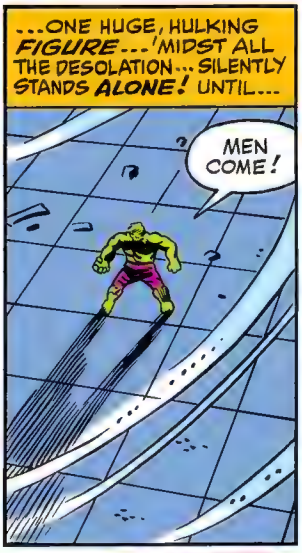

YOU THINK YOU CAN SCARE HULK BY TALKING!!
BUT HULK NEVER STOPS FIGHTING!
HAH! SPARE ME YOUR PITIFUL, CHILDISH BOASTS!
SAVE YOUR BREATH FOR A FINAL PRAYER, INSTEAD!
CLICK!
SAND-STORM!
COVERING HULK'S EYES... AND NOSE... AND MOUTH!!
CAN'T SEE!! CAN'T EVEN BREATHE! NO AIR IN LUNGS!!
EVEN HULK... CAN'T LIVE... WITHOUT BREATHING!
MUST HAVE AIR!! MUST GET FREE...OF SAND!
NOW! NOW! BEFORE HULK SUFFOCATES..!
FOOOM!
AHH! HULK DID IT!
SAND IS BLOWN AWAY ...BACK TO SAND-MAN!
18

YOU'VE GAINED NOTHING... EXCEPT A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE!
SEE HOW EASILY I CAN ENMESH YOU IN A LIVING TRAP OF SAND!
HOW LONG CAN YOU HOLD OUT AGAINST A FORCE LIKE THIS??
NO! YOU'LL NEVER TAKE AWAY HULK'S AIR AGAIN!
NOT WHILE HULK CAN LEAP...LIKE THIS!
SAND ALL SCATTERED! HAVE TO DO SOMETHING... BEFORE IT COMES TOGETHER AGAIN!
WAIT! WHAT IF IT CAN'T COME TOGETHER AGAIN??
WHAT IF HULK CAN FAN IT AWAY...
WSSSSSS
OOOSH!
--FOREVER!!
19

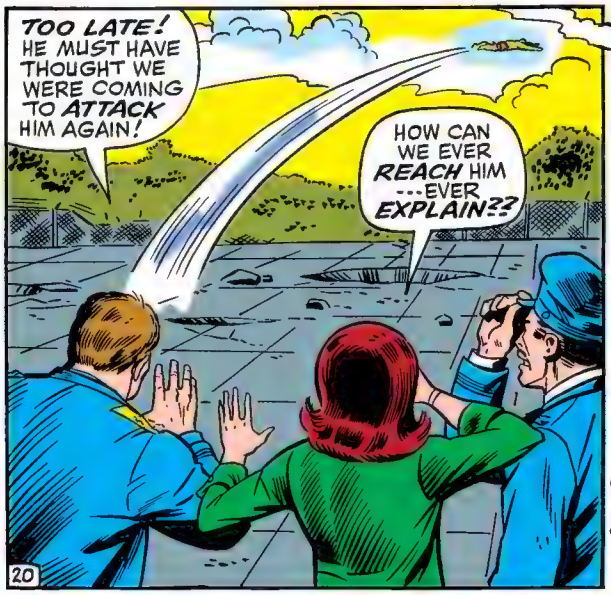
WITHIN SECONDS, A BLUSTERING, BRUISING, BLINDING HURRICANE SEEMS TO SWEEP THE AREA---

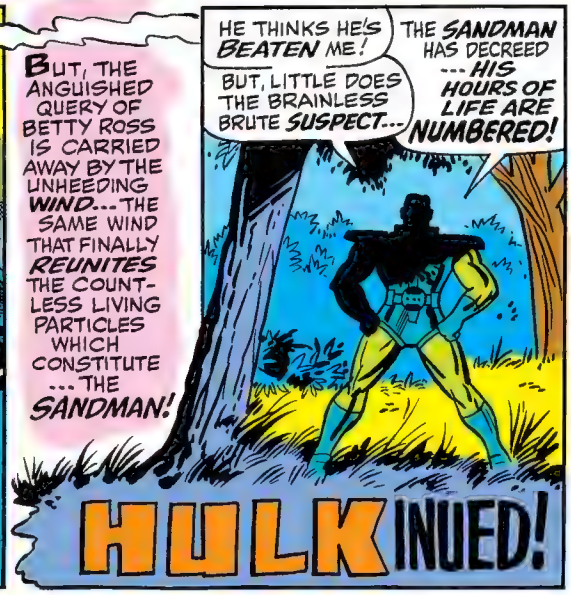

BLOWING EVERYTHING BEFORE IT WITH THE FORCE AND FURY OF A RAGING, TWISTING TORNADO--!
TAKE COVER!
INTO THE SHELTERS ---QUICK!!


AND, IN ITS TEMPESTUOUS WAKE, COUNTLESS GRAINS OF LIVING SAND ARE MADLY SCATTERED THRUOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE! AND THEN...AT LAST...


...ONE HUGE, HULKING FIGURE---'MIDST ALL THE DESOLATION... SILENTLY STANDS ALONE! UNTIL...
MEN COME!

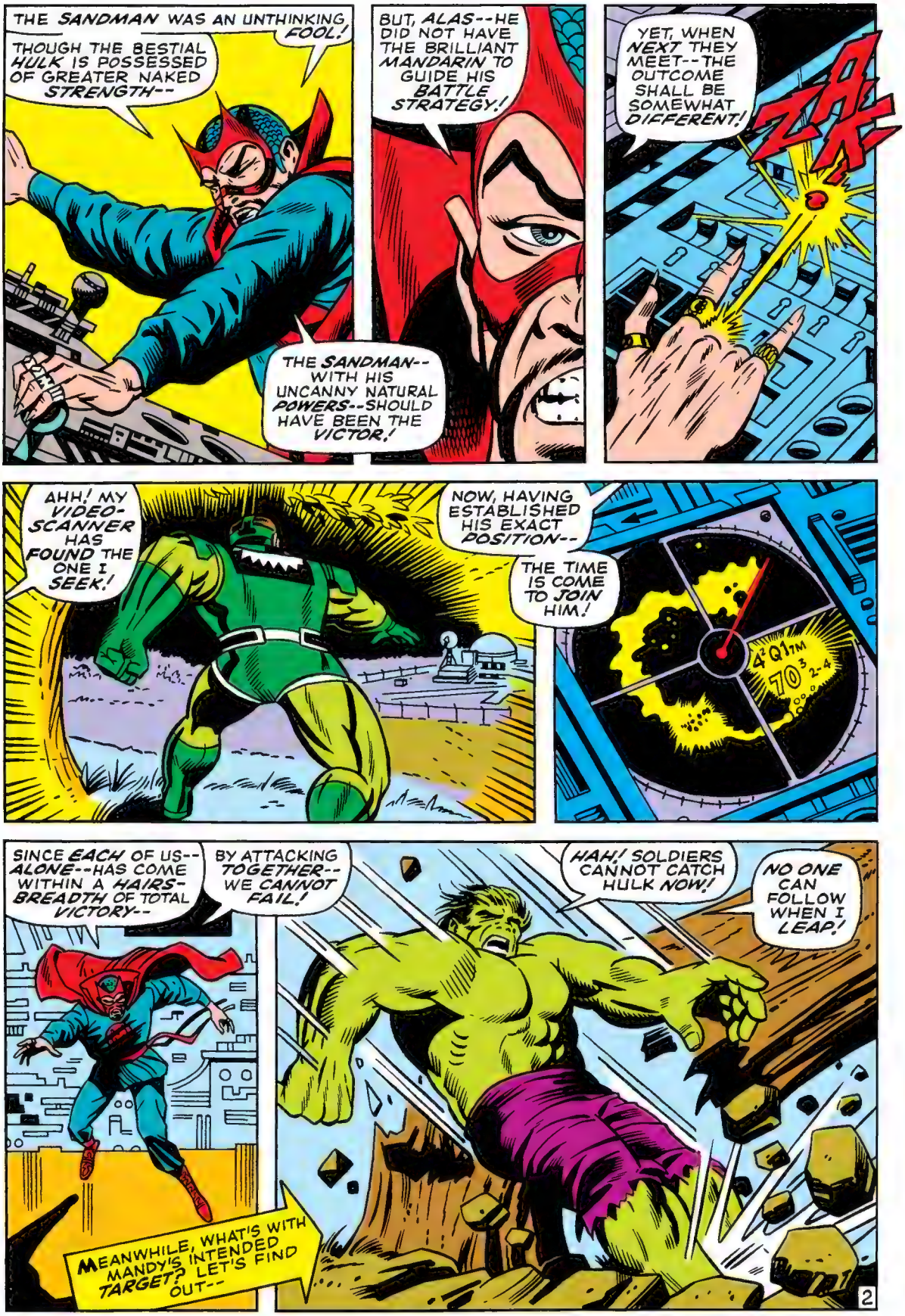
WE SAW THE WHOLE THING!
OH, DAD! THEN YOU REALIZE AT LAST---
SANDMAN WAS AFTER THE MISSILE.. BUT THE HULK STOPPED HIM!
HULK!! WAIT...!
NO! HE'S PREPARING TO LEAP..!!

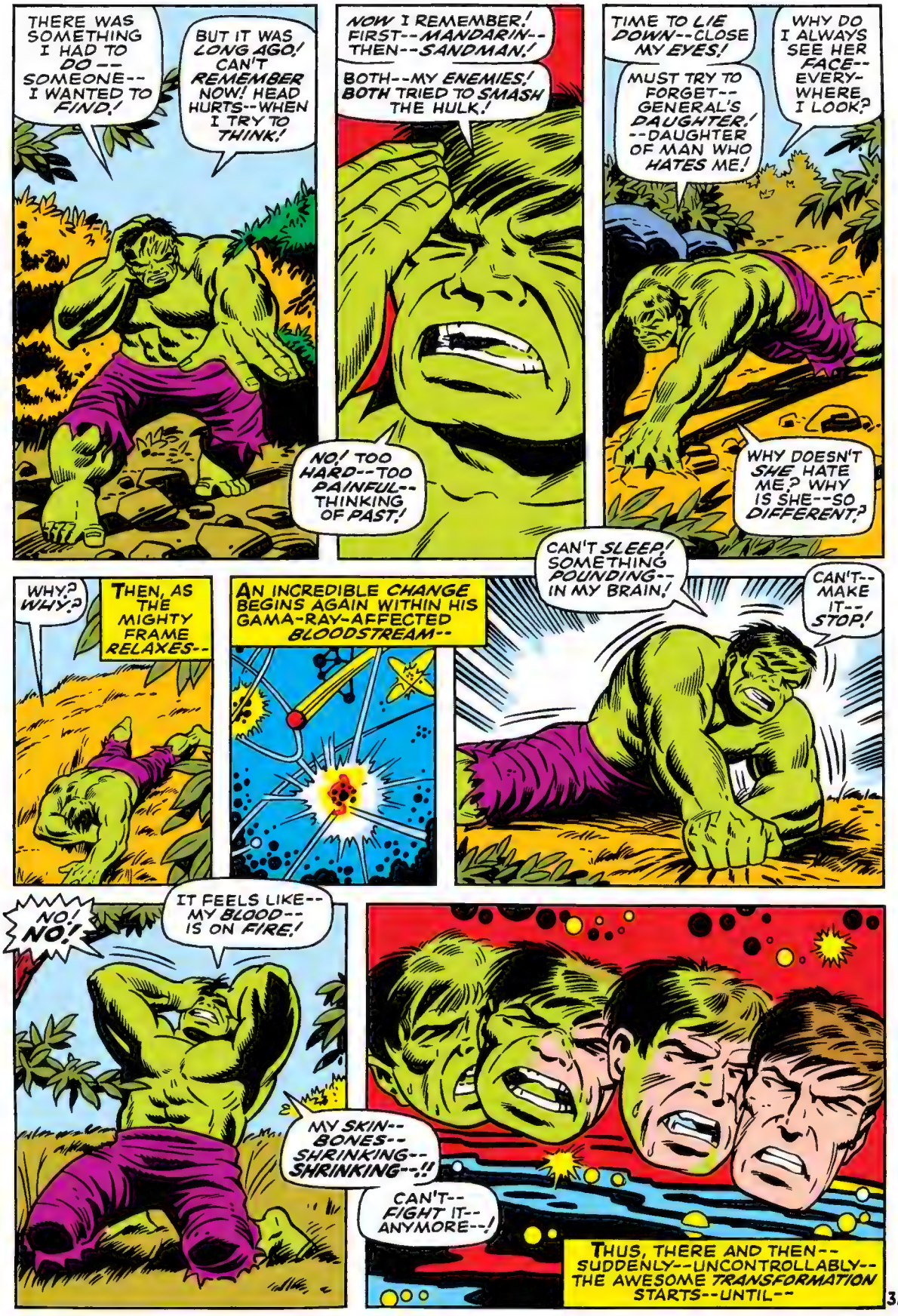

TOO LATE! HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT WE WERE COMING TO ATTACK HIM AGAIN!
HOW CAN WE EVER REACH HIM ---EVER EXPLAIN??

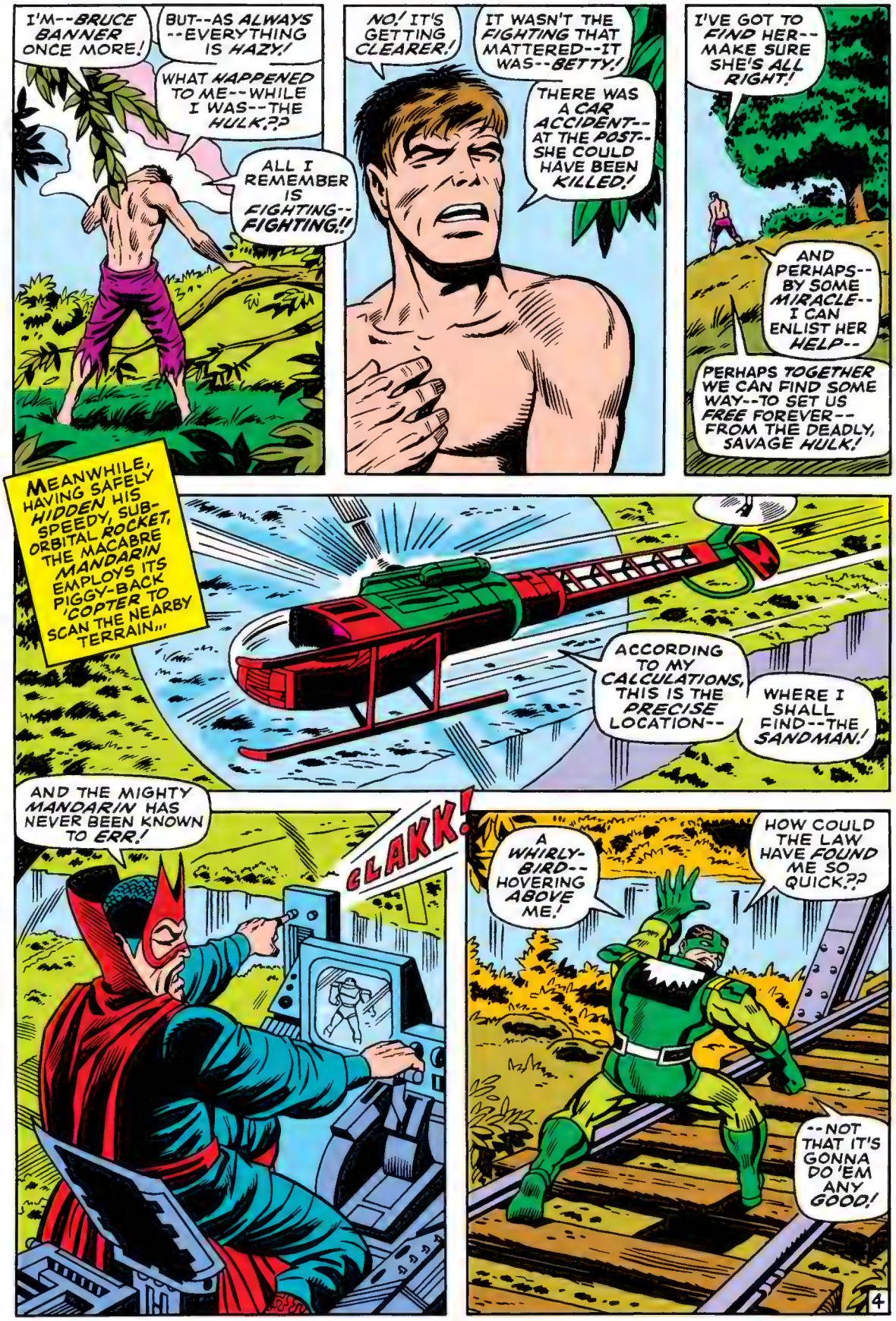

BUT, THE ANGUISHED QUERY OF BETTY ROSS IS CARRIED AWAY BY THE UNHEEDING WIND... THE SAME WIND THAT FINALLY REUNITES THE COUNTLESS LIVING PARTICLES WHICH CONSTITUTE ---THE SANDMAN!
HE THINKS HE'S BEATEN ME!
BUT, LITTLE DOES THE BRAINLESS BRUTE SUSPECT...
THE SANDMAN HAS DECREED ---HIS HOURS OF LIFE ARE NUMBERED!
HULKINUED!

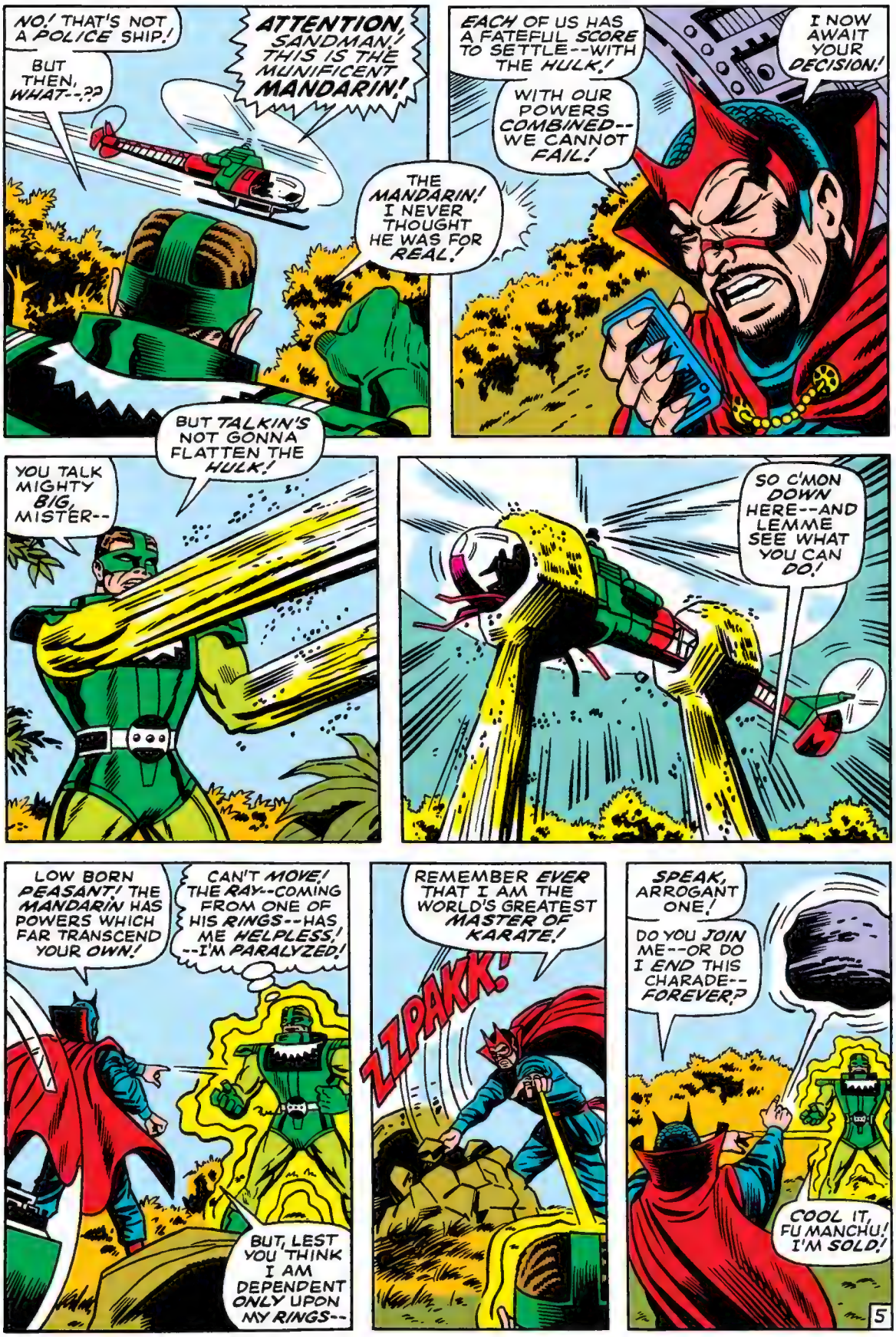
INCREDIBLE HULK
12¢ IND.
114 APR
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
AT LAST I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE!

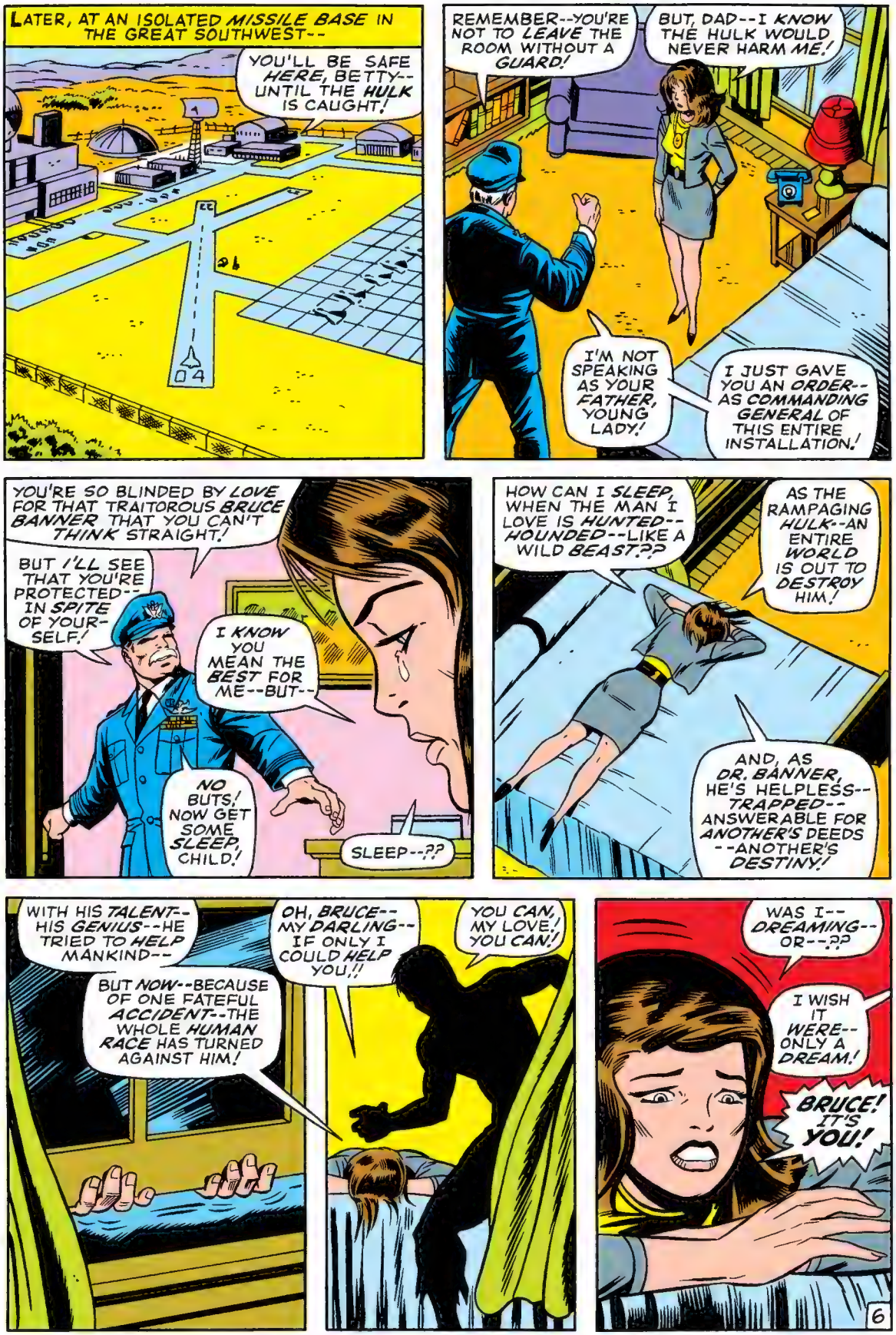
"AT LAST I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE!"
OVER A HIDDEN, SATELLITE VIDEOCEIVER, THE MANY-RINGED MANDARIN HAS BEEN WATCHING OUR GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH'S EPIC BATTLE WITH THE SANDMAN!! AND NOW--
THE LATEST, AND PERHAPS THE GREATEST
STAN LEE and HERB TRIMPE
CHARISMATIC COLLABORATION
DAN ADKINS, EMBELLISHER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER


THE SANDMAN WAS AN UNTHINKING FOOL!
THOUGH THE BESTIAL HULK IS POSSESSED OF GREATER NAKED STRENGTH--
THE SANDMAN--WITH HIS UNCANNY NATURAL POWERS--SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE VICTOR!
BUT, ALAS--HE DID NOT HAVE THE BRILLIANT MANDARIN TO GUIDE HIS BATTLE STRATEGY!
YET, WHEN NEXT THEY MEET--THE OUTCOME SHALL BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT!
ZAK
AHH! MY VIDEO-SCANNER HAS FOUND THE ONE I SEEK!
NOW, HAVING ESTABLISHED HIS EXACT POSITION--
THE TIME IS COME TO JOIN HIM!
SINCE EACH OF US--ALONE--HAS COME WITHIN A HAIRS-BREADTH OF TOTAL VICTORY--
BY ATTACKING TOGETHER--WE CANNOT FAIL!
HAH! SOLDIERS CANNOT CATCH HULK NOW!
NO ONE CAN FOLLOW WHEN I LEAP!
MEANWHILE, WHAT'S WITH MANDY'S INTENDED TARGET? LET'S FIND OUT--
2

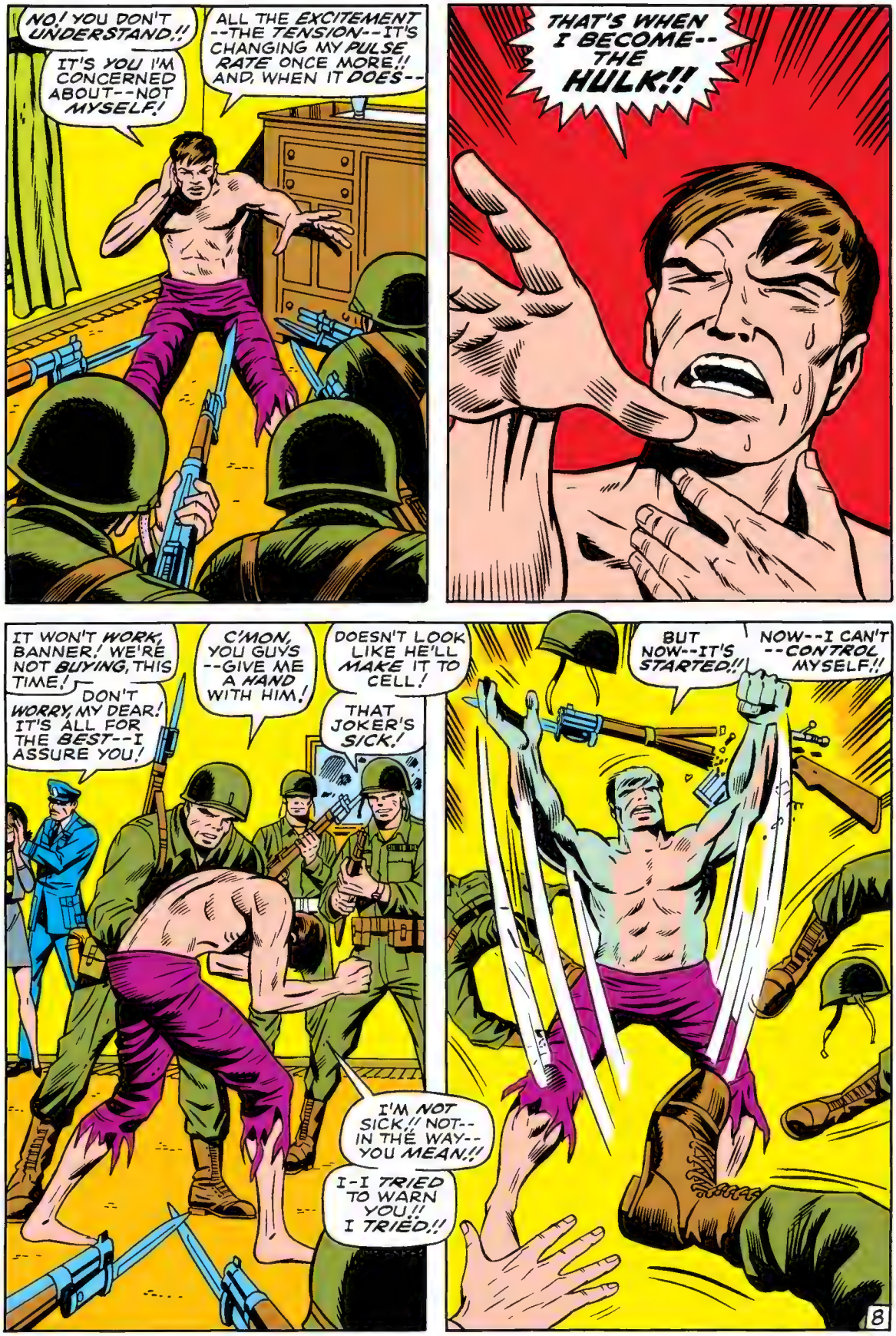

THERE WAS SOMETHING I HAD TO DO -- SOMEONE-- I WANTED TO FIND!
BUT IT WAS LONG AGO! CAN'T REMEMBER NOW! HEAD HURTS--WHEN I TRY TO THINK!
NOW I REMEMBER! FIRST--MANDARIN-- THEN--SANDMAN!
BOTH--MY ENEMIES! BOTH TRIED TO SMASH THE HULK!
NO! TOO HARD--TOO PAINFUL-- THINKING OF PAST!
TIME TO LIE DOWN--CLOSE MY EYES!
MUST TRY TO FORGET-- GENERAL'S DAUGHTER! --DAUGHTER OF MAN WHO HATES ME!
WHY DO I ALWAYS SEE HER FACE-- EVERY-WHERE I LOOK?
WHY DOESN'T SHE HATE ME? WHY IS SHE--SO DIFFERENT?
WHY? WHY?
THEN, AS THE MIGHTY FRAME RELAXES--
AN INCREDIBLE CHANGE BEGINS AGAIN WITHIN HIS GAMA-RAY-AFFECTED BLOODSTREAM--
CAN'T SLEEP! SOMETHING POUNDING-- IN MY BRAIN!
CAN'T-- MAKE IT-- STOP!
NO! NO!
IT FEELS LIKE-- MY BLOOD-- IS ON FIRE!
MY SKIN-- BONES-- SHRINKING-- SHRINKING--!!
CAN'T-- FIGHT IT-- ANYMORE--!
THUS, THERE AND THEN-- SUDDENLY--UNCONTROLLABLY-- THE AWESOME TRANSFORMATION STARTS--UNTIL--


I'M--BRUCE BANNER ONCE MORE!
BUT--AS ALWAYS --EVERYTHING IS HAZY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME--WHILE I WAS--THE HULK??
ALL I REMEMBER IS FIGHTING--FIGHTING!!
NO! IT'S GETTING CLEARER!
IT WASN'T THE FIGHTING THAT MATTERED--IT WAS--BETTY!
THERE WAS A CAR ACCIDENT--AT THE POST--SHE COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!
I'VE GOT TO FIND HER--MAKE SURE SHE'S ALL RIGHT!
AND PERHAPS--BY SOME MIRACLE--I CAN ENLIST HER HELP--
PERHAPS TOGETHER WE CAN FIND SOME WAY--TO SET US FREE FOREVER--FROM THE DEADLY, SAVAGE HULK!
MEANWHILE, HAVING SAFELY HIDDEN HIS SPEEDY, SUB-ORBITAL ROCKET, THE MACABRE MANDARIN EMPLOYS ITS PIGGY-BACK 'COPTER TO SCAN THE NEARBY TERRAIN...
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THIS IS THE PRECISE LOCATION--
WHERE I SHALL FIND--THE SANDMAN!
AND THE MIGHTY MANDARIN HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN TO ERR!
CLAKK!
A WHIRLY-BIRD--HOVERING ABOVE ME!
HOW COULD THE LAW HAVE FOUND ME SO QUICK??
--NOT THAT IT'S GONNA DO 'EM ANY GOOD!
4


NO! THAT'S NOT A POLICE SHIP!
BUT THEN, WHAT--??
ATTENTION, SANDMAN! THIS IS THE MUNIFICENT MANDARIN!
THE MANDARIN! I NEVER THOUGHT HE WAS FOR REAL!
EACH OF US HAS A FATEFUL SCORE TO SETTLE--WITH THE HULK!
WITH OUR POWERS COMBINED--WE CANNOT FAIL!
I NOW AWAIT YOUR DECISION!
YOU TALK MIGHTY BIG, MISTER--
BUT TALKIN'S NOT GONNA FLATTEN THE HULK!
SO C'MON DOWN HERE--AND LEMME SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO!
LOW BORN PEASANT! THE MANDARIN HAS POWERS WHICH FAR TRANSCEND YOUR OWN!
CAN'T MOVE! THE RAY--COMING FROM ONE OF HIS RINGS--HAS ME HELPLESS! --I'M PARALYZED!
BUT, LEST YOU THINK I AM DEPENDENT ONLY UPON MY RINGS--
REMEMBER EVER THAT I AM THE WORLD'S GREATEST MASTER OF KARATE!
ZZPAKK!
SPEAK, ARROGANT ONE!
DO YOU JOIN ME--OR DO I END THIS CHARADE--FOREVER?
COOL IT, FU MANCHU! I'M SOLD!
5

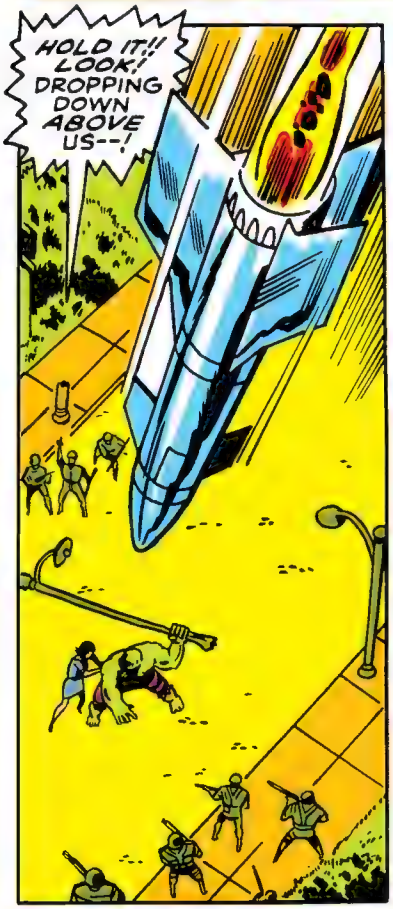

LATER, AT AN ISOLATED MISSILE BASE IN THE GREAT SOUTHWEST--
YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE, BETTY--UNTIL THE HULK IS CAUGHT!
04
REMEMBER--YOU'RE NOT TO LEAVE THE ROOM WITHOUT A GUARD!
BUT, DAD--I KNOW THE HULK WOULD NEVER HARM ME!
I'M NOT SPEAKING AS YOUR FATHER, YOUNG LADY!
I JUST GAVE YOU AN ORDER--AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THIS ENTIRE INSTALLATION!
YOU'RE SO BLINDED BY LOVE FOR THAT TRAITOROUS BRUCE BANNER THAT YOU CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT!
BUT I'LL SEE THAT YOU'RE PROTECTED--IN SPITE OF YOURSELF!
I KNOW YOU MEAN THE BEST FOR ME--BUT--
NO BUTS! NOW GET SOME SLEEP, CHILD!
SLEEP--??
HOW CAN I SLEEP, WHEN THE MAN I LOVE IS HUNTED--HOUNDED--LIKE A WILD BEAST??
AS THE RAMPAGING HULK--AN ENTIRE WORLD IS OUT TO DESTROY HIM!
AND, AS DR. BANNER, HE'S HELPLESS--TRAPPED--ANSWERABLE FOR ANOTHER'S DEEDS--ANOTHER'S DESTINY!
WITH HIS TALENT--HIS GENIUS--HE TRIED TO HELP MANKIND--
BUT NOW--BECAUSE OF ONE FATEFUL ACCIDENT--THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE HAS TURNED AGAINST HIM!
OH, BRUCE--MY DARLING--IF ONLY I COULD HELP YOU!!
YOU CAN, MY LOVE! YOU CAN!
WAS I--DREAMING--OR--??
I WISH IT WERE--ONLY A DREAM!
BRUCE! IT'S YOU!
6

OH, DARLING--YOU'RE ALIVE! YOU'RE WELL!
I WAS--SICK WITH WORRY!
I HAD TO SEE YOU, BETTY! THERE'S SO MUCH TO SAY--SO MUCH TO EXPLAIN!
BUT FIRST--WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY--TO RID US OF THE HULK--FOREVER!
I NEED A LAB--EQUIPMENT! A PLACE TO WORK--TO EXPERIMENT--TO FIND A CURE FOR THE ACCURSED GAMMA RADIATION IN MY BLOOD!
BUT MOST OF ALL--I NEED TO KNOW--THAT YOU'RE SAFE--FROM THE MONSTER I MAY AGAIN BECOME!
EVEN AS THE HULK--YOU NEVER TRIED TO HARM ANYONE!
YOU JUST STRUCK BACK--IN FEAR--AND HELPLESS RAGE!
BETTY! THE GUARD SAW SOMEONE AT YOUR WINDOW!
I CAME AS SOON AS--
YOU!
BANNER! YOU'VE RETURNED! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
GUARDS! GUARDS! ON THE DOUBLE! WE'VE GOT HIM AT LAST!
NO, TALBOT! DON'T CALL THEM! IT'LL MAKE THINGS WORSE!
DO YOU TAKE ME FOR A FOOL?
DO YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU SLIP AWAY AGAIN?
IT'S BANNER! TAKE HIM! HE MUSTN'T GET AWAY!
7


NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!!
IT'S YOU I'M CONCERNED ABOUT--NOT MYSELF!
ALL THE EXCITEMENT --THE TENSION--IT'S CHANGING MY PULSE RATE ONCE MORE!! AND, WHEN IT DOES--
THAT'S WHEN I BECOME-- THE HULK!!
IT WON'T WORK, BANNER! WE'RE NOT BUYING, THIS TIME!
DON'T WORRY, MY DEAR! IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST--I ASSURE YOU!
C'MON, YOU GUYS --GIVE ME A HAND WITH HIM!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'LL MAKE IT TO CELL!
THAT JOKER'S SICK!
I'M NOT SICK!! NOT-- IN THE WAY-- YOU MEAN!!
I-I TRIED TO WARN YOU!! I TRIED!!
BUT NOW--IT'S STARTED!!
NOW--I CAN'T --CONTROL MYSELF!!
8

MAYBE--I STILL CAN MAKE IT--OUTSIDE--
DON'T WANT--ANY INNOCENT MEN--TO DIE--BECAUSE OF--ME!!
BEFORE ALL TRACE OF BANNER--IS GONE!

BUT, IN A MATTER OF SECONDS--
BRUCE! BRUCE! DON'T! IF YOU HURL THAT POLE--!
I'VE GOT TO REACH HIM--TO STOP HIM--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
LITTLE MEN TRY TO SMASH THE HULK!
HULK MUST FIGHT BACK--MUST PROTECT HIMSELF AGAINST GUNS!!

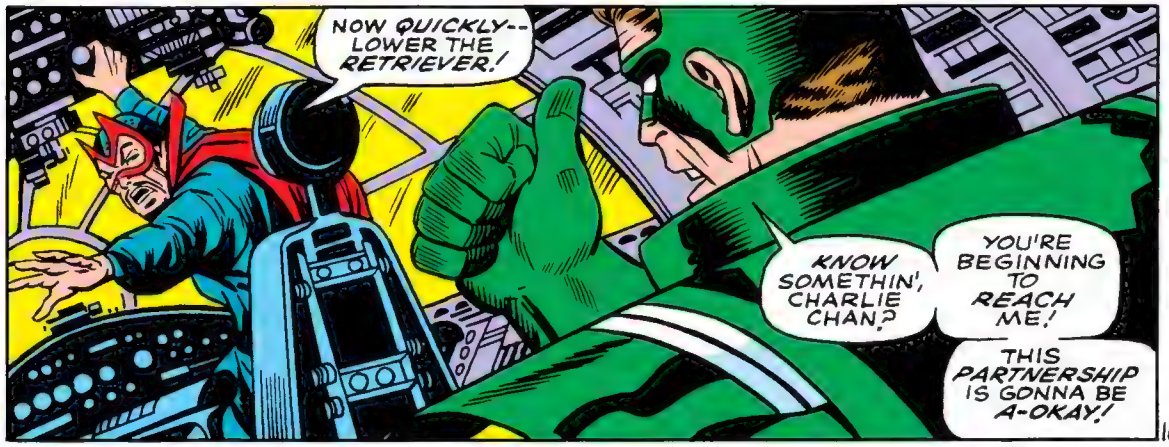

HOLD IT!! LOOK! DROPPING DOWN ABOVE US--!

ARRAHHH!!

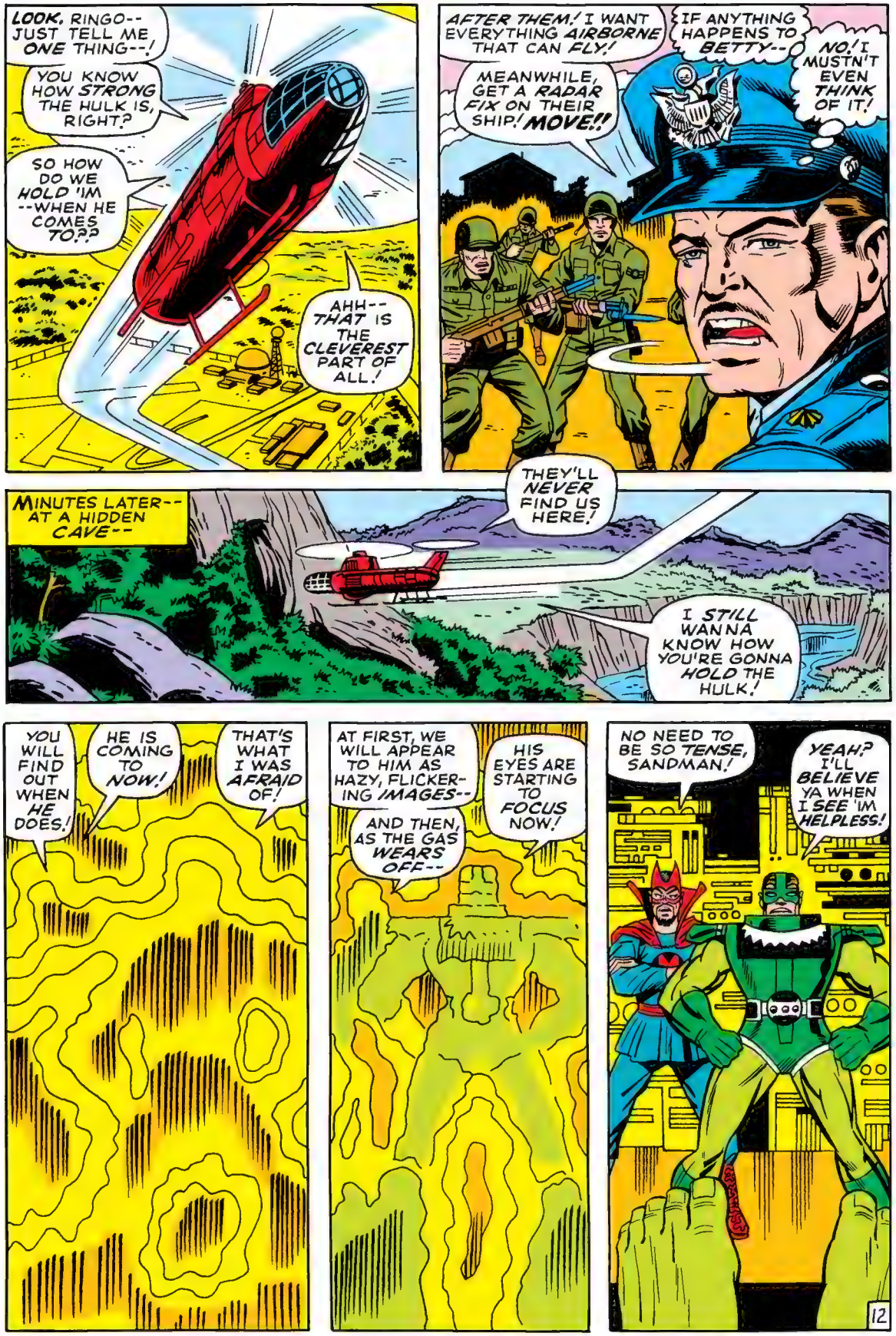
GAS! DROPPED FROM ABOVE!!
BUT-- WHO DID IT??
CAN'T-- STAND UP! EVERY-THING SPINNING-- AROUND!!
STARTING TO--FALL!

WE'VE GOT TO GET THRU THOSE VAPORS!!
THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER IS IN THERE!
GAS MASKS, QUICK!! BRING UP GAS MASKS!!

BUT, BEFORE THE ORDER CAN BE CARRIED OUT--
I TOLD YOU I KNEW HOW TO DOWN THE HULK!
IT'S THE ONE WEAPON HE'S POWERLESS AGAINST--
A SUDDEN BARRAGE OF GAS!


NOW QUICKLY-- LOWER THE RETRIEVER!
KNOW SOMETHIN', CHARLIE CHAN?
YOU'RE BEGINNING TO REACH ME!
THIS PARTNERSHIP IS GONNA BE A-OKAY!

HURRY! --BEFORE THE GAS LOSES ITS EFFECT!
A PERFECT DESCENT./ NOW LIFT, LIFT, LIFT!!
SOMETHING DROPPED FROM THE SHIP-- RIGHT INTO THE GAS!
IT'S TAKING THE HULK-- AND THE GIRL!!
FIRE! FIRE!
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
THEIR SMALL-ARMS FIRE CANNOT PENETRATE MY IMPERVIOUS HULL!
IT'S NO USE! THE SHIP IS TOO WELL ARMORED!
AND NOW-- FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE MANDARIN'S MASTER PLAN!
11


LOOK, RINGO-- JUST TELL ME ONE THING--!
YOU KNOW HOW STRONG THE HULK IS, RIGHT?
SO HOW DO WE HOLD 'IM --WHEN HE COMES TO??
AHH-- THAT IS THE CLEVEREST PART OF ALL!
AFTER THEM! I WANT EVERYTHING AIRBORNE THAT CAN FLY!
MEANWHILE, GET A RADAR FIX ON THEIR SHIP! MOVE!!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO BETTY--
NO! I MUSTN'T EVEN THINK OF IT!
MINUTES LATER-- AT A HIDDEN CAVE--
THEY'LL NEVER FIND US HERE!
I STILL WANNA KNOW HOW YOU'RE GONNA HOLD THE HULK!
YOU WILL FIND OUT WHEN HE DOES!
HE IS COMING TO NOW!
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF!
AT FIRST, WE WILL APPEAR TO HIM AS HAZY, FLICKERING IMAGES--
AND THEN, AS THE GAS WEARS OFF--
HIS EYES ARE STARTING TO FOCUS NOW!
NO NEED TO BE SO TENSE, SANDMAN!
YEAH? I'LL BELIEVE YA WHEN I SEE 'IM HELPLESS!

NOTHING HOLDING ME--TO THIS SLAB--EXCEPT RAYS OF LIGHT!
WHY--CAN'T I--GET UP??

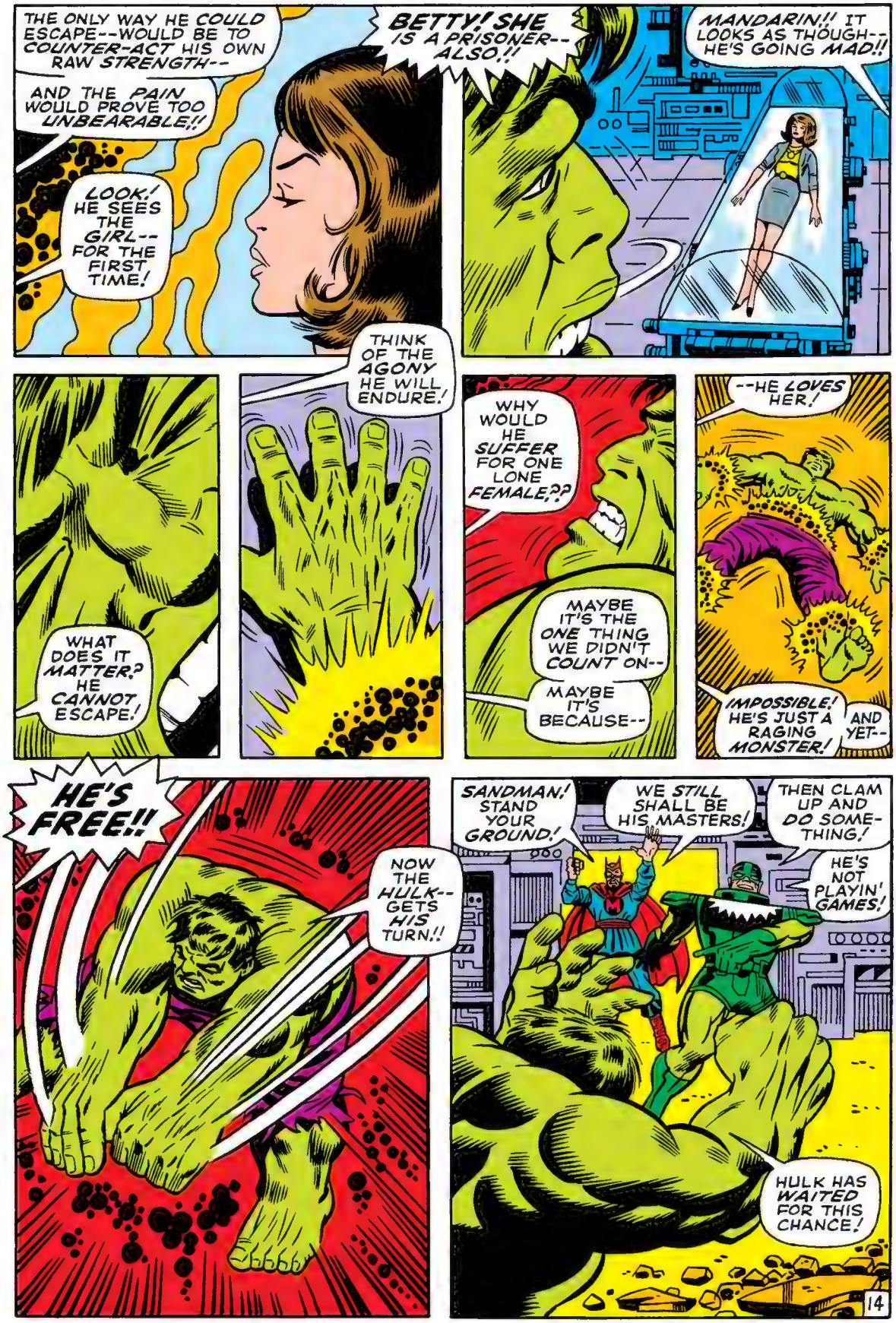
IT IS MY GREATEST INNOVATION!
CONTRA-POWER RAYS--BATHING HIM CONTINUALLY!
WHAT IN BLAZES DOES THAT MEAN?

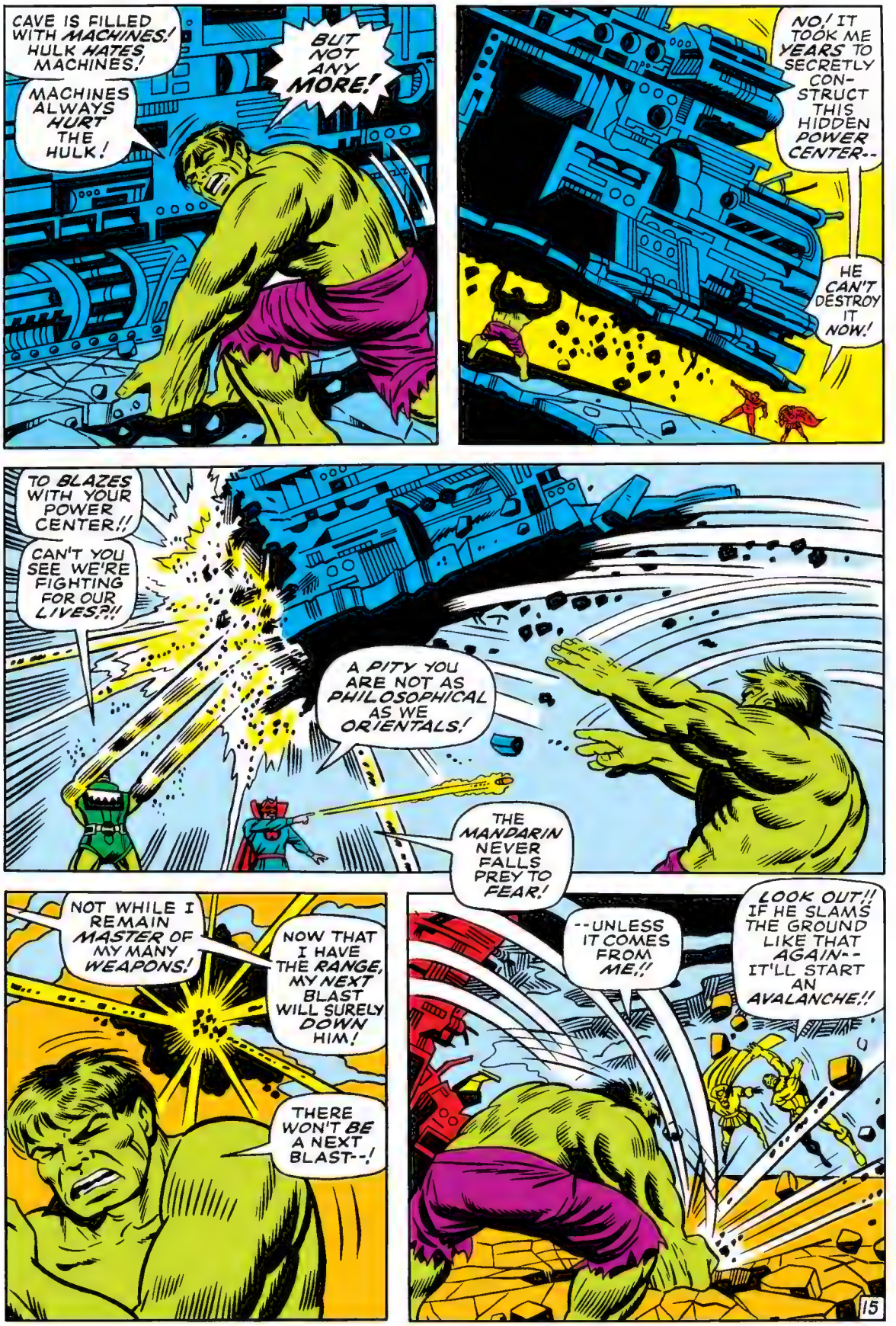
THE RAYS HARNESS HIS OWN POWER--TURNING IT AGAINST HIM!

THE MORE HE STRUGGLES, THE MORE BRUTE FORCE IS HURLED AGAINST HIM!

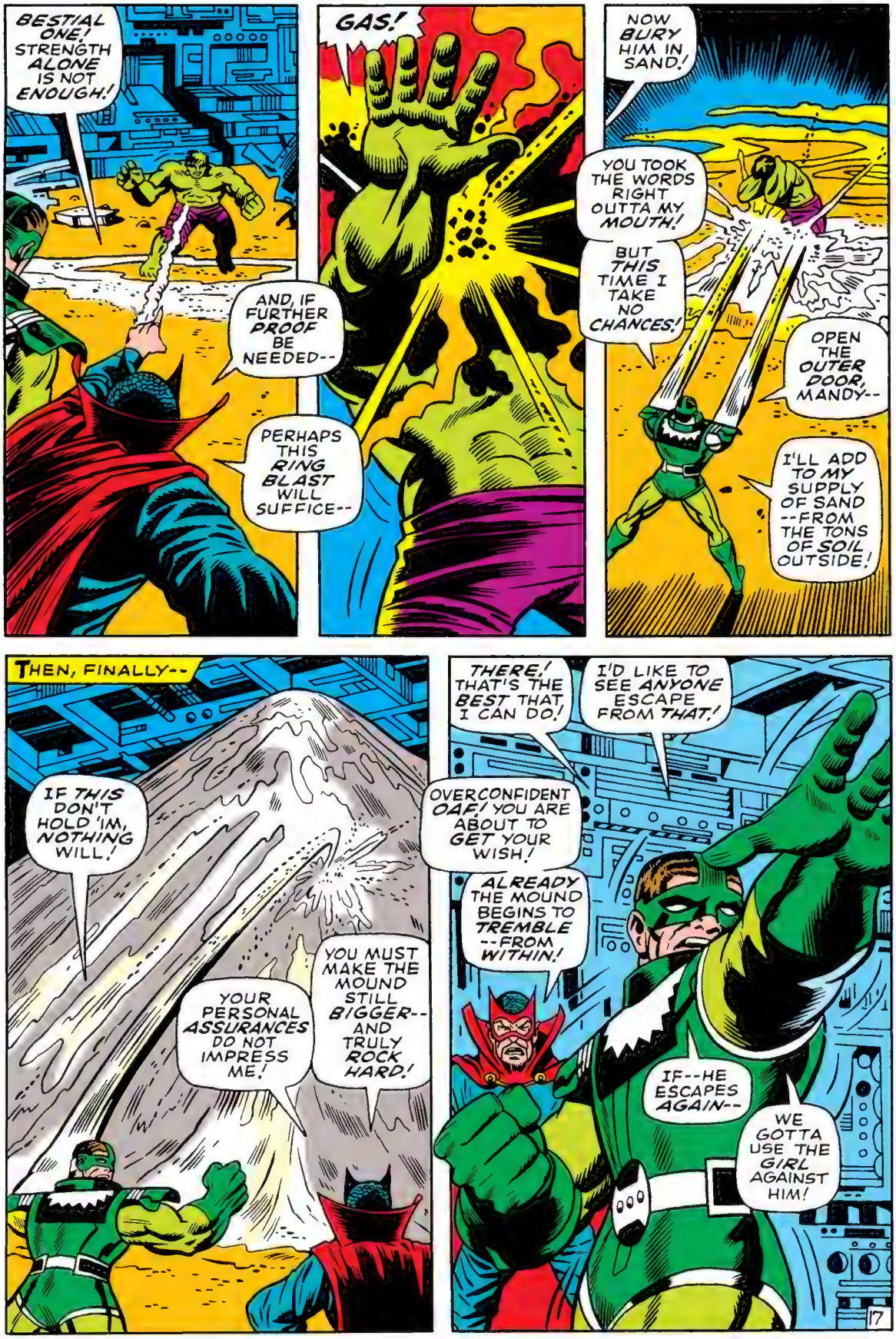
BRUTE FORCE WHICH HE CANNOT OVERCOME--

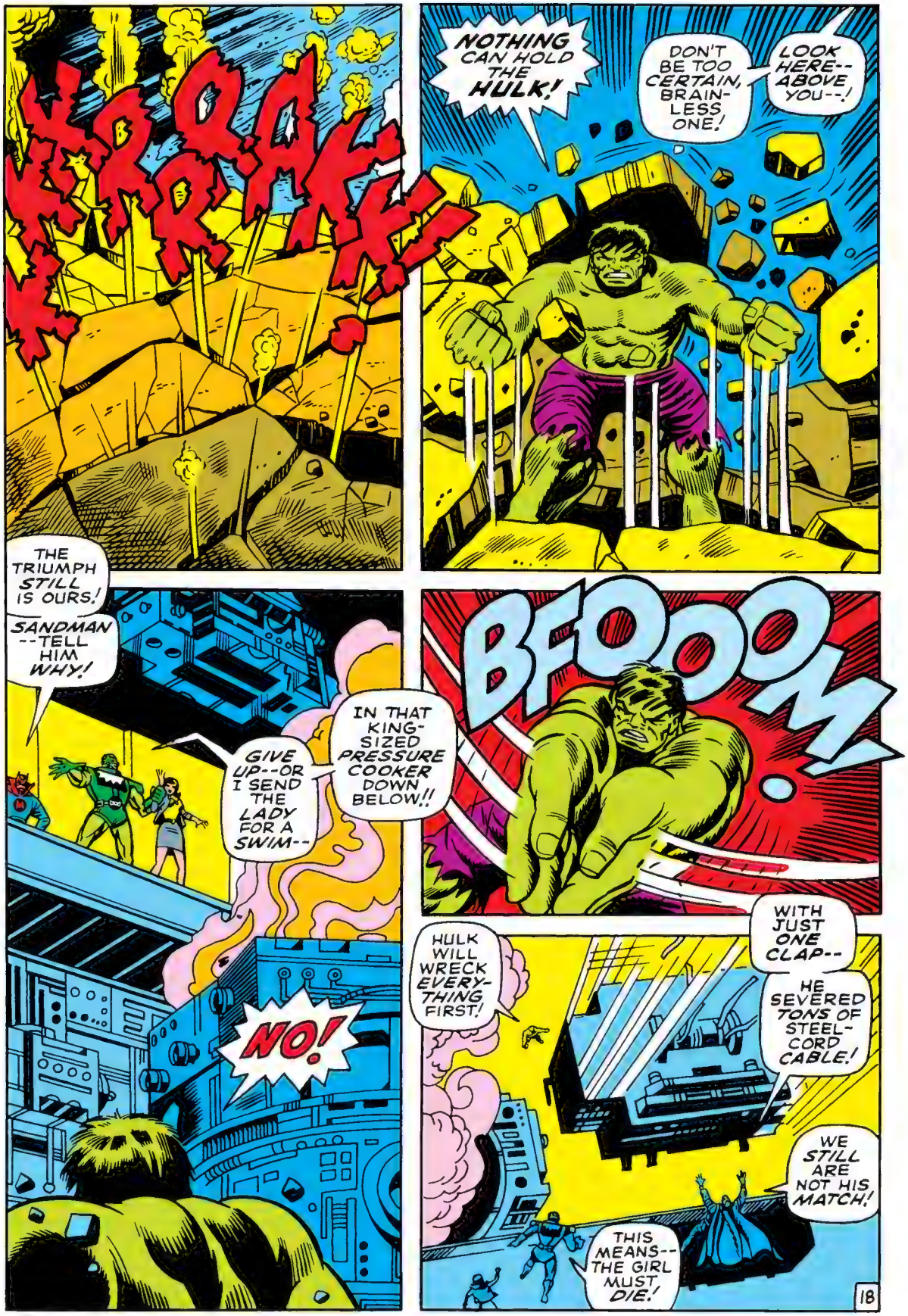
--FOR IT IS HIS OWN!!


THE ONLY WAY HE COULD ESCAPE--WOULD BE TO COUNTER-ACT HIS OWN RAW STRENGTH--
AND THE PAIN WOULD PROVE TOO UNBEARABLE!!
LOOK! HE SEES THE GIRL--FOR THE FIRST TIME!
BETTY! SHE IS A PRISONER--ALSO!!
MANDARIN!! IT LOOKS AS THOUGH--HE'S GOING MAD!!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? HE CANNOT ESCAPE!
THINK OF THE AGONY HE WILL ENDURE!
WHY WOULD HE SUFFER FOR ONE LONE FEMALE??
MAYBE IT'S THE ONE THING WE DIDN'T COUNT ON--
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE--
--HE LOVES HER!
IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S JUST A RAGING MONSTER!
AND YET--
HE'S FREE!!
NOW THE HULK--GETS HIS TURN!!
SANDMAN! STAND YOUR GROUND!
WE STILL SHALL BE HIS MASTERS!
THEN CLAM UP AND DO SOMETHING!
HE'S NOT PLAYIN' GAMES!
HULK HAS WAITED FOR THIS CHANCE!

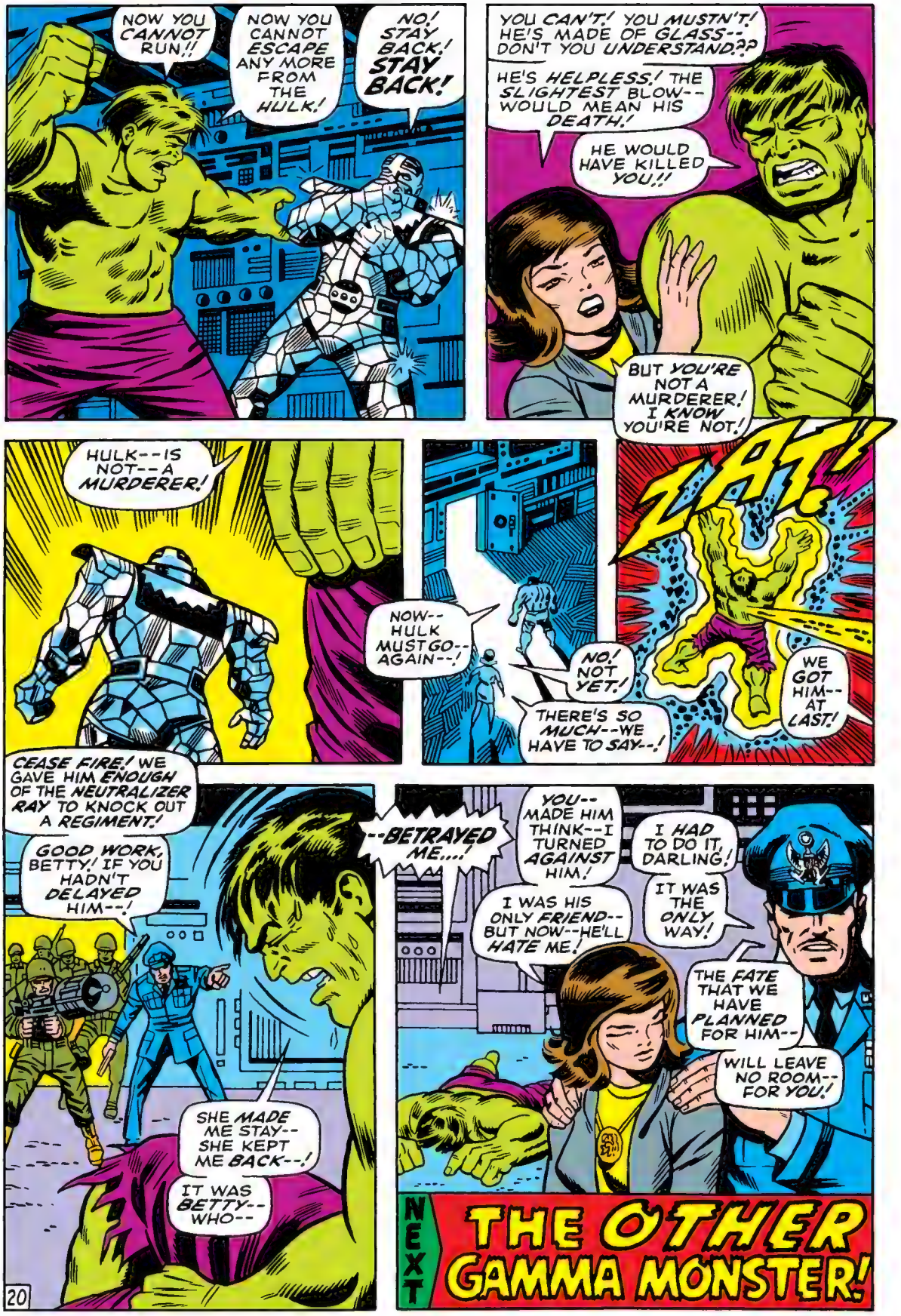

CAVE IS FILLED WITH MACHINES! HULK HATES MACHINES!
MACHINES ALWAYS HURT THE HULK!
BUT NOT ANY MORE!
NO! IT TOOK ME YEARS TO SECRETLY CONSTRUCT THIS HIDDEN POWER CENTER--
HE CAN'T DESTROY IT NOW!
TO BLAZES WITH YOUR POWER CENTER!!
CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES?!!
A PITY YOU ARE NOT AS PHILOSOPHICAL AS WE ORIENTALS!
THE MANDARIN NEVER FALLS PREY TO FEAR!
NOT WHILE I REMAIN MASTER OF MY MANY WEAPONS!
NOW THAT I HAVE THE RANGE, MY NEXT BLAST WILL SURELY DOWN HIM!
THERE WON'T BE A NEXT BLAST--!
--UNLESS IT COMES FROM ME!!
LOOK OUT!! IF HE SLAMS THE GROUND LIKE THAT AGAIN-- IT'LL START AN AVALANCHE!!

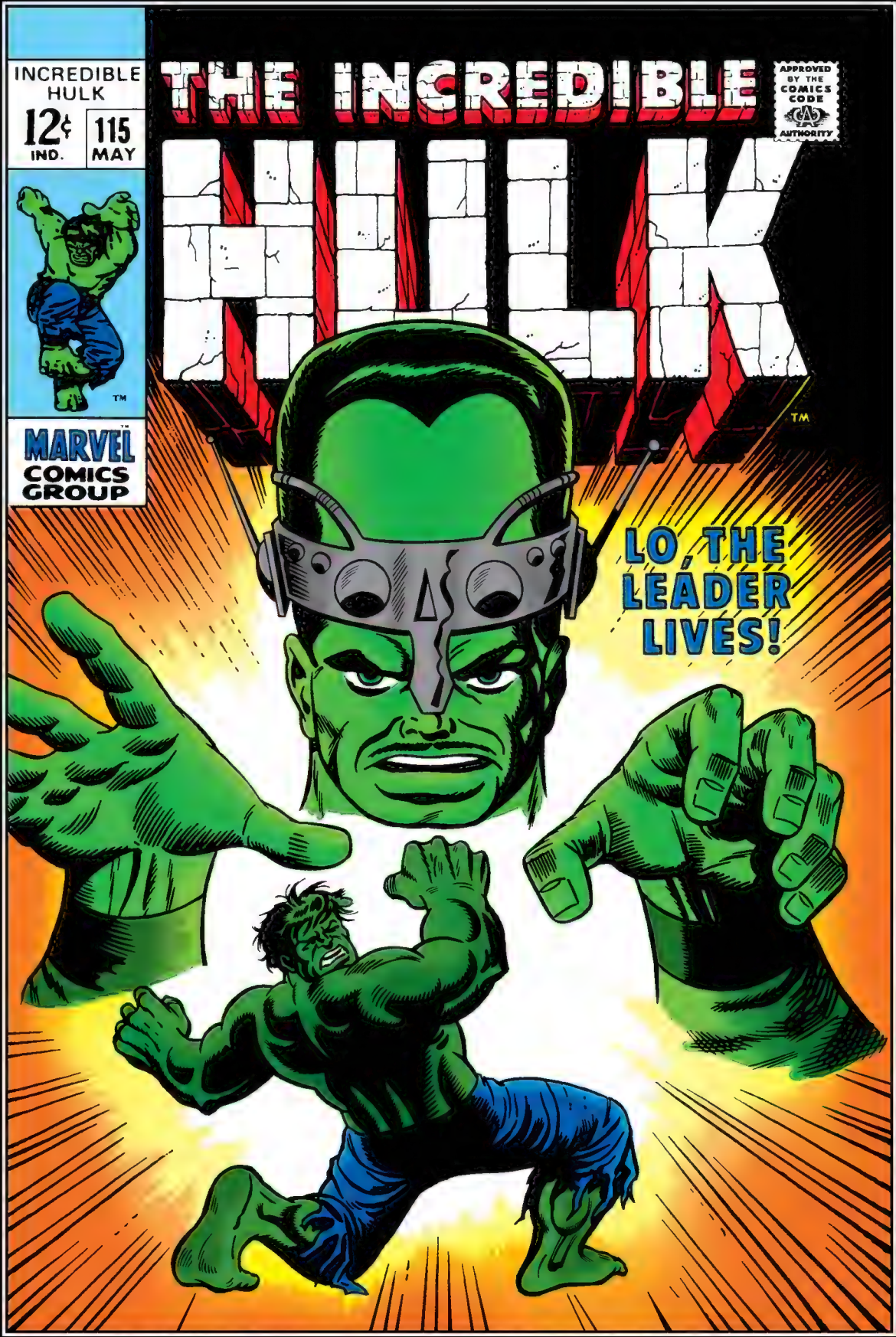
THIS'LL GIVE 'IM SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT FOR A WHILE!
YOU WASTE YOUR EFFORT!
SUCH SIMPLE, ROCK-HARD SAND-BLASTS CANNOT HARM THE HULK!
WE MUST PLAN NEW STRATEGY!
YOU DO THE PLANNIN', MISTER!
UMMHHH!!
I'M BUSY!
THERE! IT SLOWED 'IM DOWN LONG ENOUGH--
FOR ME TO SEAL HIM OFF IN THIS!!
NOTHING CAN STOP THE HULK!
DON'T BET ON IT, BIG MAN!
THOOOM!
HULK DOESN'T HAVE TO BET!!
HULK KNOWS HOW STRONG HE IS!!


BESTIAL ONE! STRENGTH ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH!
AND, IF FURTHER PROOF BE NEEDED--
PERHAPS THIS RING BLAST WILL SUFFICE--
GAS!
NOW BURY HIM IN SAND!
YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUTTA MY MOUTH!
BUT THIS TIME I TAKE NO CHANCES!
OPEN THE OUTER DOOR, MANDY--
I'LL ADD TO MY SUPPLY OF SAND --FROM THE TONS OF SOIL OUTSIDE!
THEN, FINALLY--
IF THIS DON'T HOLD 'IM, NOTHING WILL!
YOUR PERSONAL ASSURANCES DO NOT IMPRESS ME!
YOU MUST MAKE THE MOUND STILL BIGGER-- AND TRULY ROCK HARD!
THERE! THAT'S THE BEST THAT I CAN DO!
I'D LIKE TO SEE ANYONE ESCAPE FROM THAT!
OVERCONFIDENT OAF! YOU ARE ABOUT TO GET YOUR WISH!
ALREADY THE MOUND BEGINS TO TREMBLE --FROM WITHIN!
IF--HE ESCAPES AGAIN--
WE GOTTA USE THE GIRL AGAINST HIM!

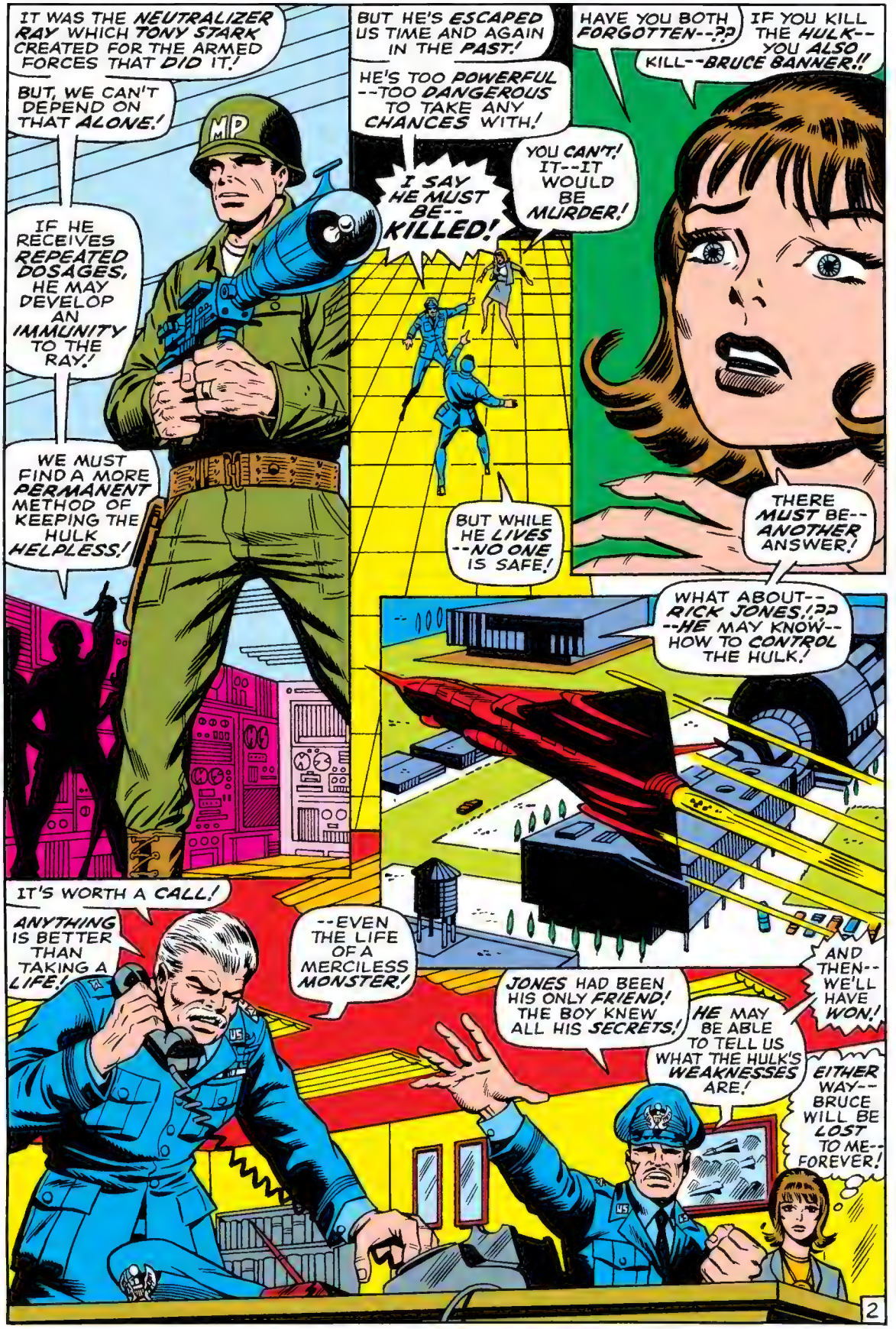

KRRAK!
NOTHING CAN HOLD THE HULK!
DON'T BE TOO CERTAIN, BRAIN-LESS ONE!
LOOK HERE--ABOVE YOU--!
THE TRIUMPH STILL IS OURS!
SANDMAN --TELL HIM WHY!
GIVE UP--OR I SEND THE LADY FOR A SWIM--
IN THAT KING-SIZED PRESSURE COOKER DOWN BELOW!!
NO!
BFOOOM!
HULK WILL WRECK EVERY-THING FIRST!
WITH JUST ONE CLAP--
HE SEVERED TONS OF STEEL-CORD CABLE!
WE STILL ARE NOT HIS MATCH!
THIS MEANS--THE GIRL MUST DIE!

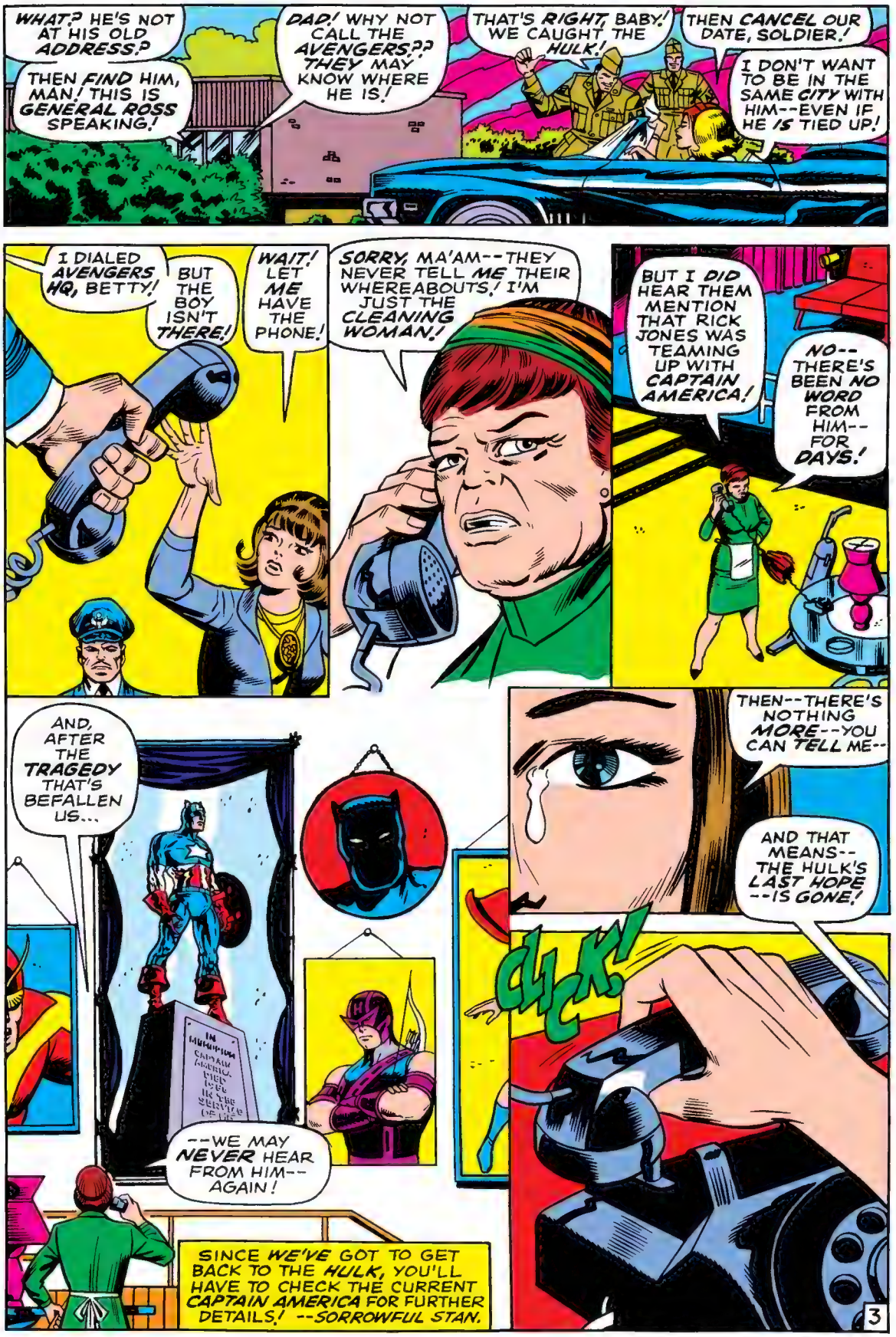
FOOL! HARMING THE GIRL CANNOT HELP US NOW!
MY POWER RING SHALL REVERSE ITS FALL--
BUT YOU SHALL BE LESS FORTUNATE!
HEY! WHA--??
THAT IS THE PRICE THAT ALL MUST PAY WHO FAIL THE MANDARIN!
MY ESCAPE ROUTE IS ALREADY PLANNED--
AND HE TRAVELS FASTEST WHO TRAVELS ALONE!
THEY CALL HULK A MONSTER!
THEN, WHAT NAME CAN THERE BE-- FOR THEM,??
IS SANDMAN DEAD, OR--?
WAIT! DOOR IS OPENING! HE STILL LIVES!
BUT LOOK! LOOK HOW HE HAS-- CHANGED!
THE HEAT-- THE PRESSURE-- WITHIN THE VAT--
HAVE CHANGED MY SAND MOLECULES--
--INTO GLASS!


NOW YOU CANNOT RUN!!
NOW YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ANY MORE FROM THE HULK!
NO! STAY BACK! STAY BACK!
YOU CAN'T! YOU MUSTN'T! HE'S MADE OF GLASS--DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!?
HE'S HELPLESS! THE SLIGHTEST BLOW--WOULD MEAN HIS DEATH!
HE WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU!!
BUT YOU'RE NOT A MURDERER! I KNOW YOU'RE NOT!
HULK--IS NOT--A MURDERER!
NOW--HULK MUST GO--AGAIN--!
NO! NOT YET!
THERE'S SO MUCH--WE HAVE TO SAY--!
ZAT!
WE GOT HIM--AT LAST!
CEASE FIRE! WE GAVE HIM ENOUGH OF THE NEUTRALIZER RAY TO KNOCK OUT A REGIMENT!
GOOD WORK, BETTY! IF YOU HADN'T DELAYED HIM--!
SHE MADE ME STAY--SHE KEPT ME BACK--!
IT WAS BETTY--WHO--
--BETRAYED ME....!
YOU--MADE HIM THINK--I TURNED AGAINST HIM!
I WAS HIS ONLY FRIEND--BUT NOW--HE'LL HATE ME!
I HAD TO DO IT, DARLING!
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY!
THE FATE THAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR HIM--
WILL LEAVE NO ROOM--FOR YOU!
NEXT
THE OTHER GAMMA MONSTER!
20


INCREDIBLE HULK
12¢ IND.
115 MAY
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
LO, THE LEADER LIVES!

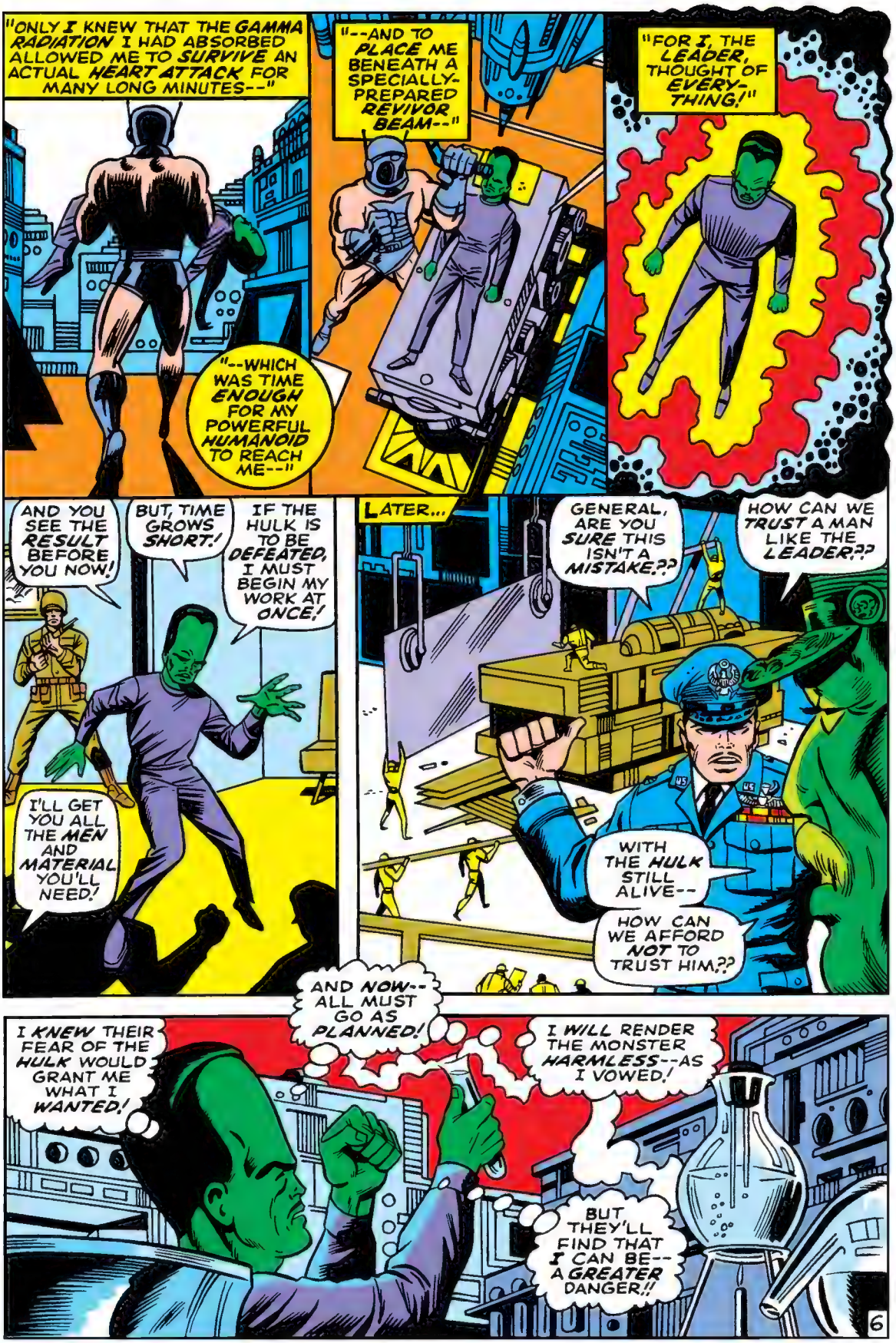
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
"LO, THE LEADER LIVES"
WE'VE DOWNED THE HULK AT LAST!
BUT YOU MADE HIM THINK IT WAS I WHO BETRAYED HIM!
IT'S BEST THIS WAY, BETTY!
NOW PERHAPS HE'LL BE OUT OF YOUR LIFE-- FOREVER!
AN ALL-NEW STAN LEE and HERB TRIMPE ACTION EPIC!
INKING: DAN ADKINS
LETTERING: ART SIMEK


IT WAS THE NEUTRALIZER RAY WHICH TONY STARK CREATED FOR THE ARMED FORCES THAT DID IT!
BUT, WE CAN'T DEPEND ON THAT ALONE!
IF HE RECEIVES REPEATED DOSAGES, HE MAY DEVELOP AN IMMUNITY TO THE RAY!
WE MUST FIND A MORE PERMANENT METHOD OF KEEPING THE HULK HELPLESS!
BUT HE'S ESCAPED US TIME AND AGAIN IN THE PAST!
HE'S TOO POWERFUL --TOO DANGEROUS TO TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH!
I SAY HE MUST BE-- KILLED!
YOU CAN'T! IT--IT WOULD BE MURDER!
BUT WHILE HE LIVES --NO ONE IS SAFE!
HAVE YOU BOTH FORGOTTEN--??
IF YOU KILL THE HULK-- YOU ALSO KILL--BRUCE BANNER!!
THERE MUST BE-- ANOTHER ANSWER!
WHAT ABOUT-- RICK JONES!?? --HE MAY KNOW-- HOW TO CONTROL THE HULK!
IT'S WORTH A CALL!
ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN TAKING A LIFE!
--EVEN THE LIFE OF A MERCILESS MONSTER!
JONES HAD BEEN HIS ONLY FRIEND! THE BOY KNEW ALL HIS SECRETS!
HE MAY BE ABLE TO TELL US WHAT THE HULK'S WEAKNESSES ARE!
AND THEN-- WE'LL HAVE WON!
EITHER WAY-- BRUCE WILL BE LOST TO ME-- FOREVER!
2


WHAT? HE'S NOT AT HIS OLD ADDRESS?
THEN FIND HIM, MAN! THIS IS GENERAL ROSS SPEAKING!
DAD! WHY NOT CALL THE AVENGERS?? THEY MAY KNOW WHERE HE IS!
THAT'S RIGHT, BABY! WE CAUGHT THE HULK!
THEN CANCEL OUR DATE, SOLDIER!
I DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE SAME CITY WITH HIM--EVEN IF HE IS TIED UP!
I DIALED AVENGERS HQ, BETTY!
BUT THE BOY ISN'T THERE!
WAIT! LET ME HAVE THE PHONE!
SORRY, MA'AM--THEY NEVER TELL ME THEIR WHEREABOUTS! I'M JUST THE CLEANING WOMAN!
BUT I DID HEAR THEM MENTION THAT RICK JONES WAS TEAMING UP WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA!
NO--THERE'S BEEN NO WORD FROM HIM--FOR DAYS!
AND, AFTER THE TRAGEDY THAT'S BEFALLEN US...
IN MEMORIUM
--WE MAY NEVER HEAR FROM HIM--AGAIN!
THEN--THERE'S NOTHING MORE--YOU CAN TELL ME--
AND THAT MEANS--THE HULK'S LAST HOPE--IS GONE!
CLICK!
SINCE WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE HULK, YOU'LL HAVE TO CHECK THE CURRENT CAPTAIN AMERICA FOR FURTHER DETAILS! --SORROWFUL STAN.
3

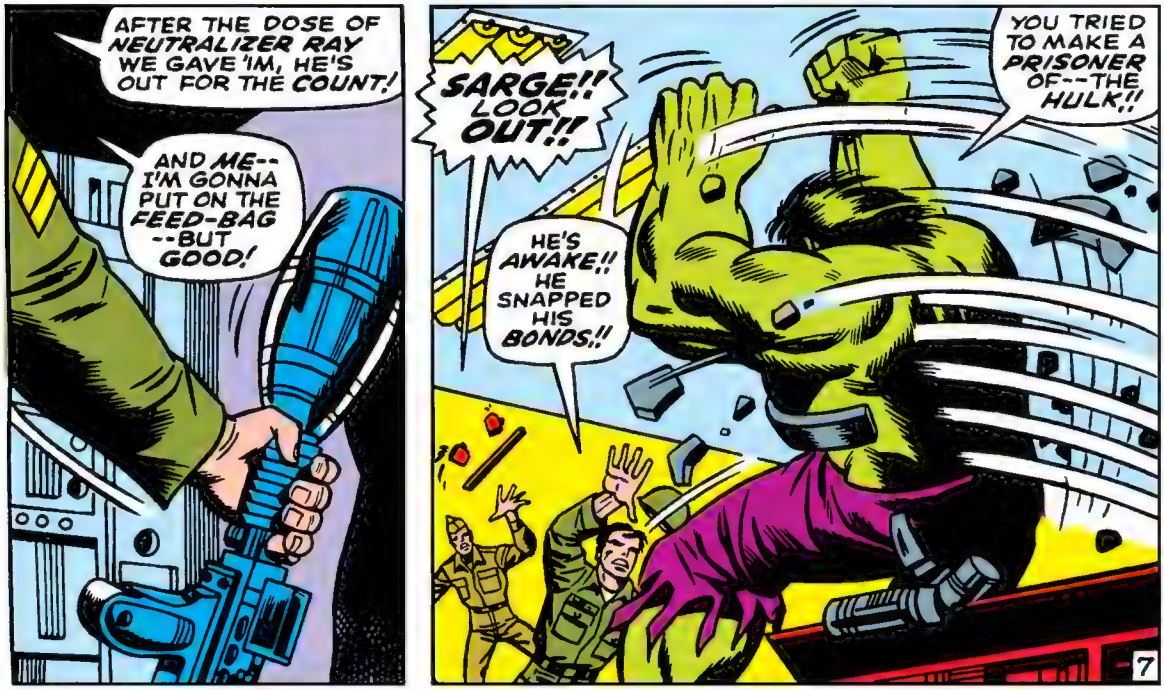
BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT--
HOW SIMPLE IT IS TO ELUDE THEIR PUNY RADAR SCREEN--
SINCE THE SPECIAL AURA ABOUT MY SHIP MAKES IT TOTALLY UNDETECTABLE!
GENERAL! DID YOU JUST HEAR AN AIRCRAFT LAND?
IMPOSSIBLE!! NO SHIP CAN COME WITHIN MILES OF THIS POST--
WITHOUT TRIGGERING THE RADAR ALARM!
BUT, I HEARD SOMETHING, TOO!
HOLD IT, MISTER! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE--WITHOUT ORDERS OF GENERAL ROSS!
STAND ASIDE, FOOL! I'VE COME TOO FAR TO BE HALTED NOW!
WHO IS THAT??
WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON OUT THERE?
I STILL LIVE--AS YOU CAN SEE!
I HAVE COME TO AID YOU--
REMEMBER--A GAMMA-RAY ACCIDENT AFFECTED MY BRAIN--JUST AS IT AFFECTED THE HULK'S STRENGTH!
TO SHOW YOU HOW TO OVERCOME THE HULK--TO KEEP HIM POWERLESS--FOREVER!
IT'S THE MYSTERIOUS GENIUS KNOWN AS--THE LEADER!!
BUT--I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!!
SO I ALONE CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO CRUSH HIM!
4

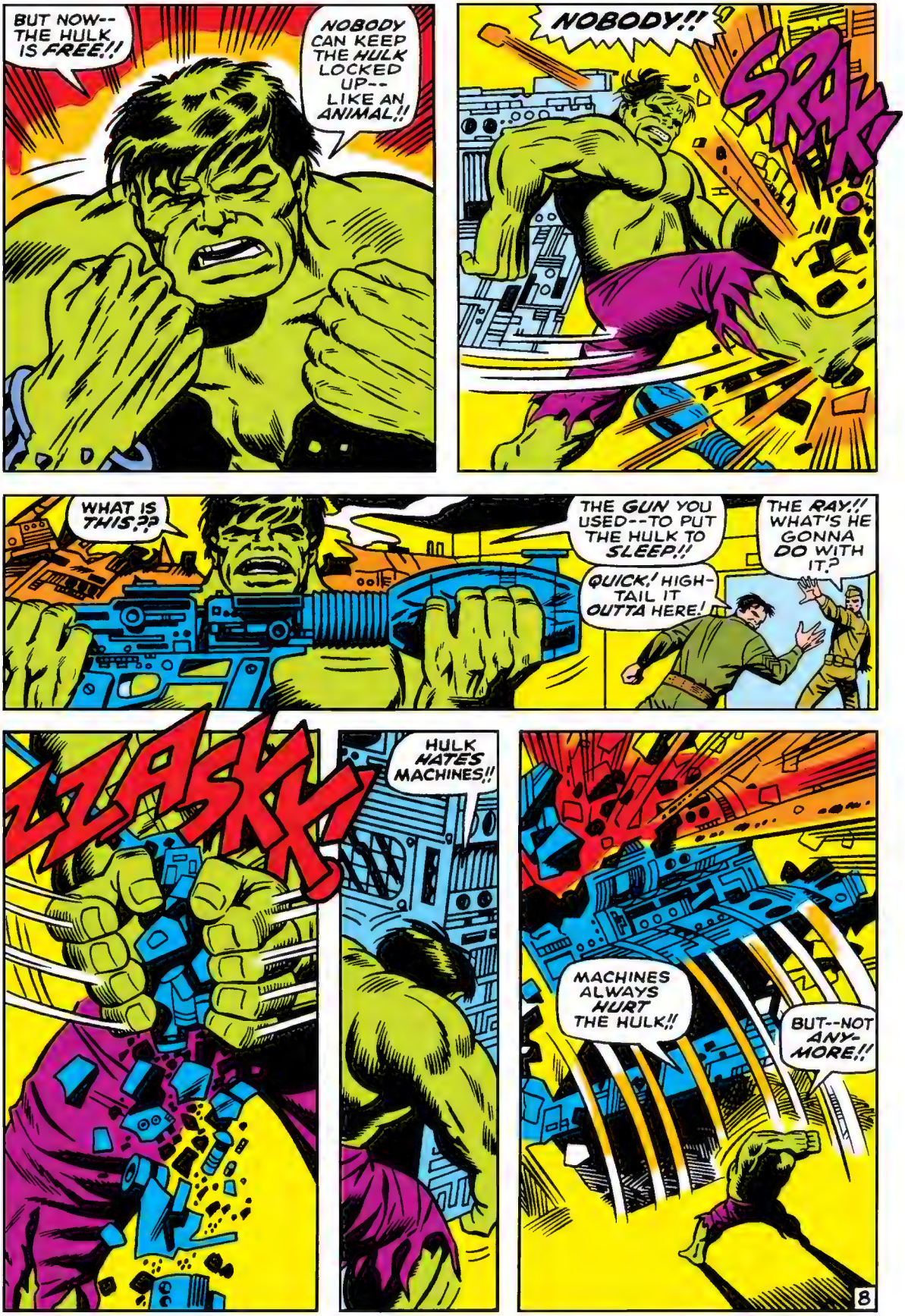
BUT, YOU'VE BROKEN THE LAW! YOU'RE A WANTED CRIMINAL!!
NOT SO! HAVE I NOT BEEN DECLARED TO BE LEGALLY DEAD?!!
THE LAW DOES NOT PROSECUTE A DEAD MAN!
BE CAREFUL, GENERAL! IT'S SOME SORT OF TRICK!
WHY WOULD A DANGEROUS CREEP LIKE HIM WANT TO HELP US??
AT EASE, MAJOR! I'M STILL IN COMMAND HERE!
I'D ACCEPT AID FROM THE DEVIL HIMSELF-- IF IT MEANT WE'D FINALLY BE FREE OF THE HULK!!
MY MOTIVES ARE SIMPLE! I MERELY WISH TO CLEAR MY NAME--
BUT FIRST-- HOW DO YOU HAPPEN TO BE ALIVE??
TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MY PAST DEEDS!
WHEN THE SO-CALLED ULTIMATE MACHINE CAUSED MY DOWNFALL-- MANY MONTHS AGO--*
*IN TALES TO ASTONISH #74, TO BE EXACT! --S.L.
"MY LOSS OF HEART-BEAT IMMEDIATELY ACTIVATED A SPECIAL HUMANOID WHICH I HAD PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED--
"--FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF RESTORING ME TO LIFE!"
5


"ONLY I KNEW THAT THE GAMMA RADIATION I HAD ABSORBED ALLOWED ME TO SURVIVE AN ACTUAL HEART ATTACK FOR MANY LONG MINUTES--"
"--WHICH WAS TIME ENOUGH FOR MY POWERFUL HUMANOID TO REACH ME--"
"--AND TO PLACE ME BENEATH A SPECIALLY-PREPARED REVIVOR BEAM--"
"FOR I, THE LEADER, THOUGHT OF EVERY-THING!"
AND YOU SEE THE RESULT BEFORE YOU NOW!
BUT, TIME GROWS SHORT!
IF THE HULK IS TO BE DEFEATED, I MUST BEGIN MY WORK AT ONCE!
I'LL GET YOU ALL THE MEN AND MATERIAL YOU'LL NEED!
LATER...
GENERAL, ARE YOU SURE THIS ISN'T A MISTAKE??
HOW CAN WE TRUST A MAN LIKE THE LEADER???
WITH THE HULK STILL ALIVE--
HOW CAN WE AFFORD NOT TO TRUST HIM??
AND NOW--ALL MUST GO AS PLANNED!
I KNEW THEIR FEAR OF THE HULK WOULD GRANT ME WHAT I WANTED!
I WILL RENDER THE MONSTER HARMLESS--AS I VOWED!
BUT THEY'LL FIND THAT I CAN BE--A GREATER DANGER!!
6

BUT, EVEN AS THE LEADER SCHEMES--
THEY'LL SOON BE BRINGIN' ME MY CHOW!
MP
HOPE IT COMES BEFORE THE NEUTRALIZER RAY WEARS OFF!

RIGHT ON THE BUTTON, SOLDIER!
A GUY GETS HUNGRY STANDIN' HERE ALL DAY!
HOW'S YOUR GREEN-SKINNED PLAYMATE, SARGE?
HOW WOULDJA EXPECT 'IM TO BE?

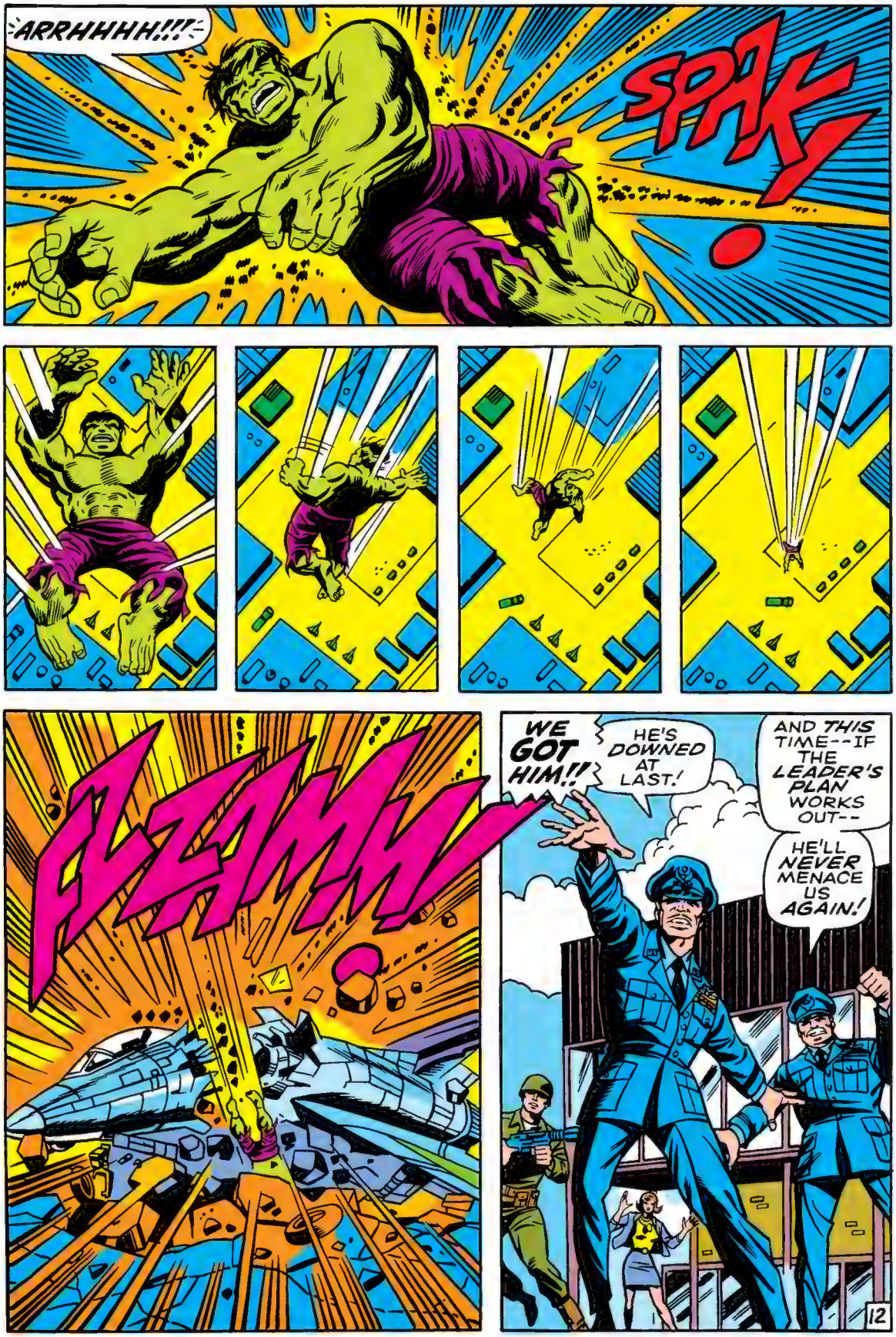

AFTER THE DOSE OF NEUTRALIZER RAY WE GAVE 'IM, HE'S OUT FOR THE COUNT!
AND ME-- I'M GONNA PUT ON THE FEED-BAG --BUT GOOD!
SARGE!! LOOK OUT!!
HE'S AWAKE!! HE SNAPPED HIS BONDS!!
YOU TRIED TO MAKE A PRISONER OF--THE HULK!!
7

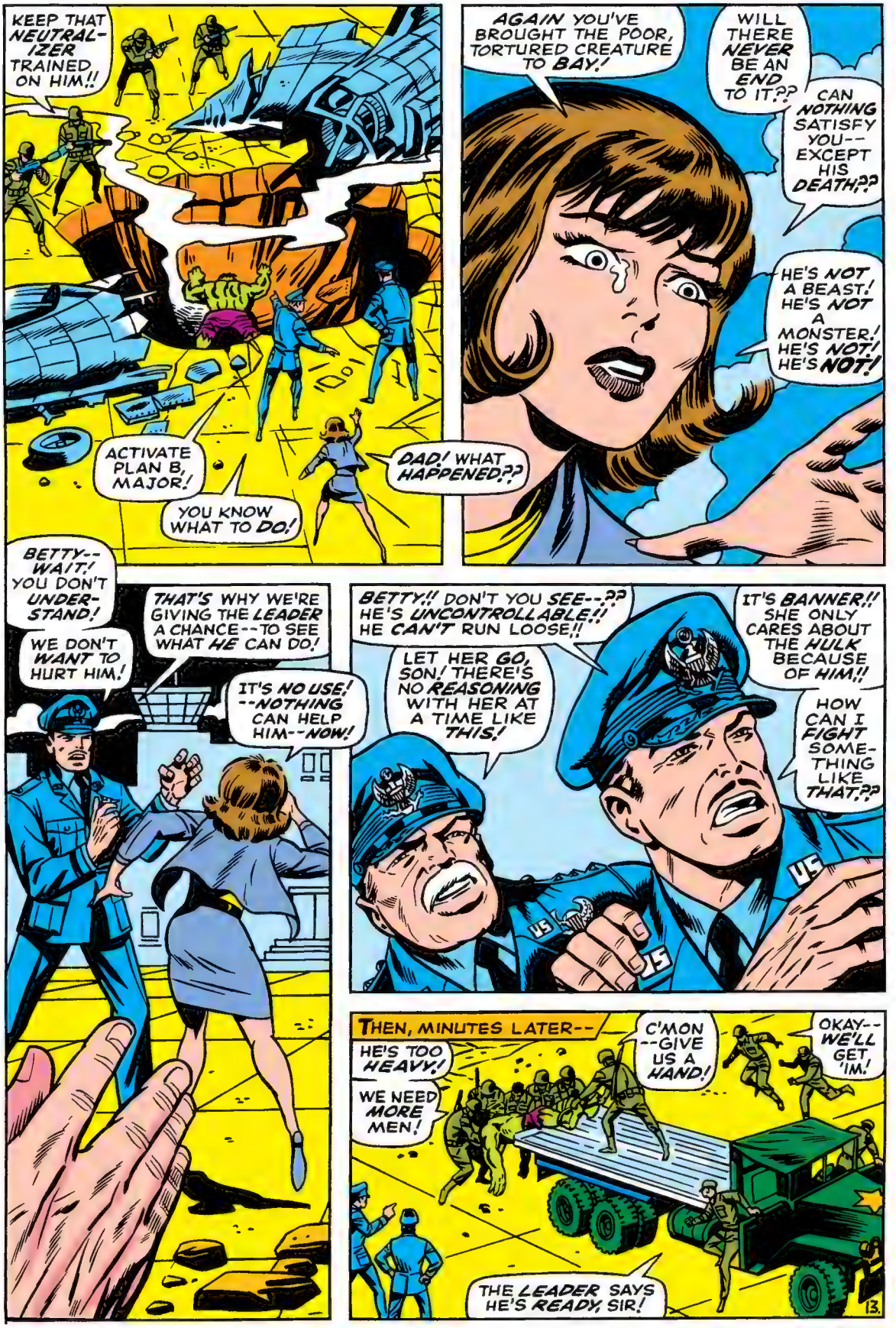

BUT NOW-- THE HULK IS FREE!!
NOBODY CAN KEEP THE HULK LOCKED UP-- LIKE AN ANIMAL!!
NOBODY!!
SRAK!
WHAT IS THIS??
THE GUN YOU USED--TO PUT THE HULK TO SLEEP!!
QUICK! HIGH-TAIL IT OUTTA HERE!
THE RAY!! WHAT'S HE GONNA DO WITH IT?
ZZASKK!
HULK HATES MACHINES!!
MACHINES ALWAYS HURT THE HULK!!
BUT--NOT ANY-MORE!!
8

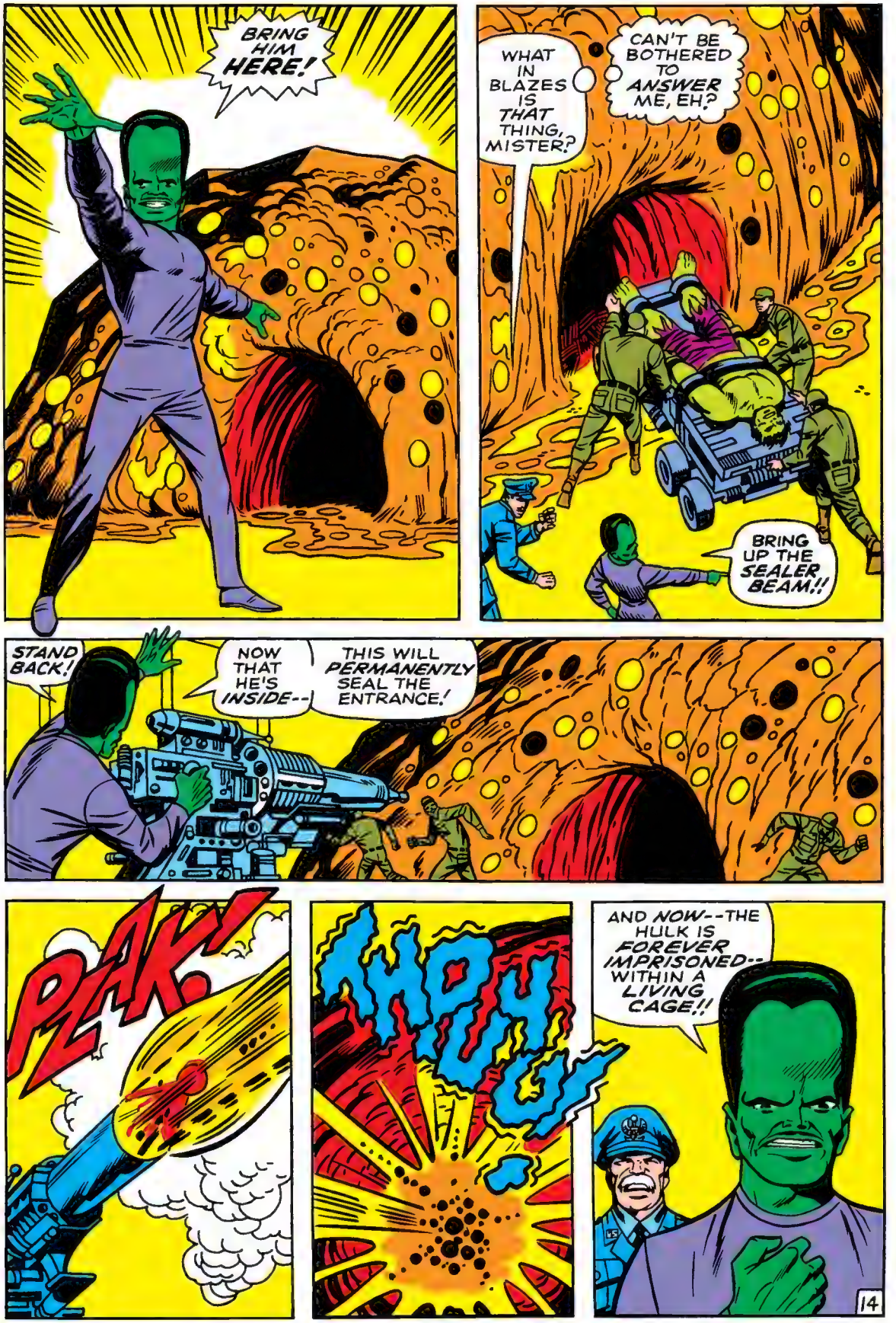
CONDITION RED! CONDITION RED!
THE HULK IS LOOSE!
AND, AT THE HANGAR WHERE THE LEADER'S WORK CREW TOILS--
THE HULK HAS BROKEN FREE!
YOU MUST HOLD HIM OFF-- UNTIL MY WORK IS DONE!
I'VE ALERTED EVERY AVAILABLE MAN!
WE'LL THROW EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT AGAINST HIM!
BUT IT LOOKS BAD, SIR! HE'S ALREADY DESTROYED THE SENTRY'S NEUTRALIZER GUN!
QUICK! CONTACT THE ORDNANCE DEPOT!
LUCKILY, THEY HAVE SOME DUPLICATE N-RAYS!
I WANT THEM HERE AT ONCE!
AND SO--IT BEGINS--!!
EEEE

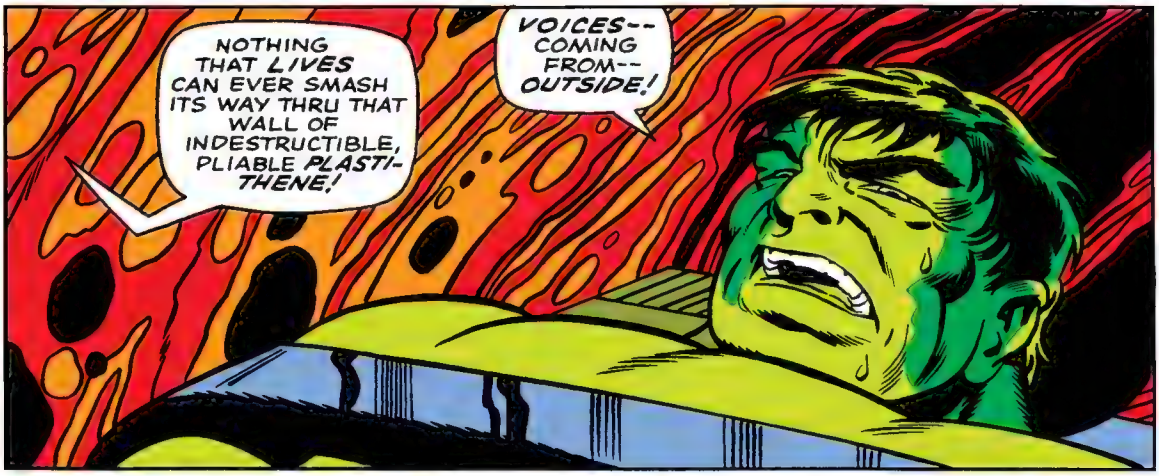
STAND YOUR GROUND!! LET 'IM HAVE IT!
KRAK!
HULK COULD SMASH YOU ALL-- LIKE FLEAS!
BUT THERE IS A BETTER WAY!
HULK DOESN'T NEED ANY GUNS!
ALL HULK NEEDS IS--
THIS!!
BOOM
HAH! FLOOR IS SMASHED!!
SOLDIERS FALL THRU!
NOBODY CAN SHOOT THE HULK!
10

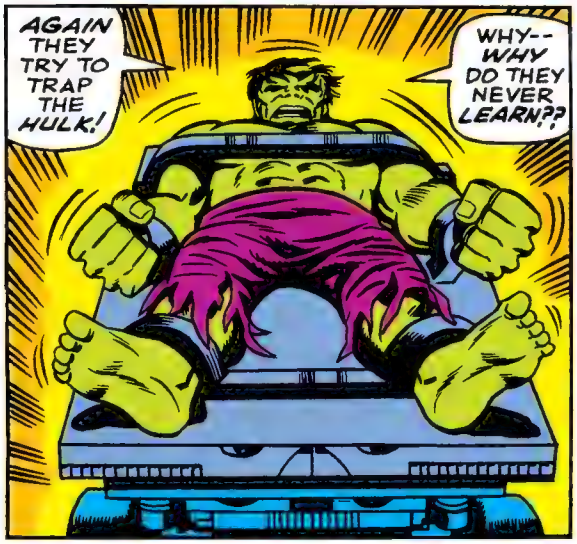
WE'RE JUST IN TIME!
YOU'VE GOT THE NEUTRALIZER RAY--NOW USE IT!
HE'S STILL THERE!
YES SIR, MAJOR!
HURRY! HE SEES YOU!
HE MIGHT DO ANYTHING!
THEY PUT ME TO SLEEP BEFORE--WITH SAME GUN!
HULK MUSTN'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE AGAIN!!
SPAK!
ZAT!
WE MISSED HIM!
HE JUMPED CLEAN THRU THE ROOF!
HE'S STILL IN RANGE!
THERE'S JUST TIME FOR ONE LAST SHOT!
ONCE HE LANDS, WE'LL NEVER GET HIM!
DON'T WORRY, SIR!
THIS TIME I'VE GOT 'IM IN MY SIGHTS!!
ZAT!
11


ARRHHHH!!!
SPAK
KLAMM
WE GOT HIM!!
HE'S DOWNED AT LAST!
AND THIS TIME--IF THE LEADER'S PLAN WORKS OUT--
HE'LL NEVER MENACE US AGAIN!
12

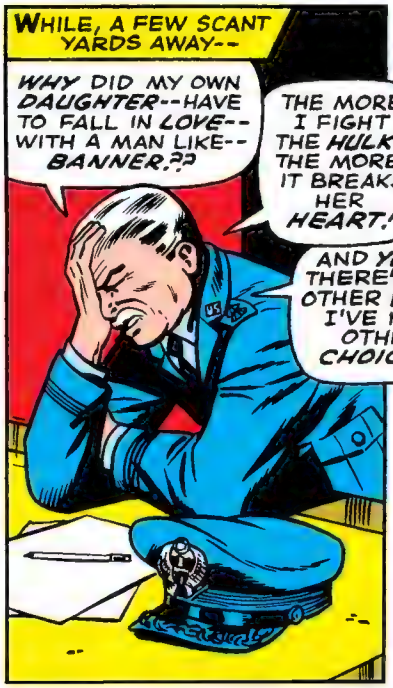

KEEP THAT NEUTRALIZER TRAINED ON HIM!!
ACTIVATE PLAN B, MAJOR!
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
DAD! WHAT HAPPENED??
AGAIN YOU'VE BROUGHT THE POOR, TORTURED CREATURE TO BAY!
WILL THERE NEVER BE AN END TO IT??
CAN NOTHING SATISFY YOU-- EXCEPT HIS DEATH??
HE'S NOT A BEAST! HE'S NOT A MONSTER! HE'S NOT! HE'S NOT!
BETTY-- WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GIVING THE LEADER A CHANCE--TO SEE WHAT HE CAN DO!
IT'S NO USE! --NOTHING CAN HELP HIM--NOW!
BETTY!! DON'T YOU SEE--?? HE'S UNCONTROLLABLE!! HE CAN'T RUN LOOSE!!
LET HER GO, SON! THERE'S NO REASONING WITH HER AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
IT'S BANNER!! SHE ONLY CARES ABOUT THE HULK BECAUSE OF HIM!!
HOW CAN I FIGHT SOMETHING LIKE THAT??
THEN, MINUTES LATER--
HE'S TOO HEAVY!
WE NEED MORE MEN!
C'MON --GIVE US A HAND!
OKAY-- WE'LL GET 'IM!
THE LEADER SAYS HE'S READY, SIR!
13.


BRING HIM HERE!
WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT THING, MISTER?
CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO ANSWER ME, EH?
BRING UP THE SEALER BEAM!!
STAND BACK!
NOW THAT HE'S INSIDE--
THIS WILL PERMANENTLY SEAL THE ENTRANCE!
PLAK!
AND NOW--THE HULK IS FOREVER IMPRISONED-- WITHIN A LIVING CAGE!!
14


NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN EVER SMASH ITS WAY THRU THAT WALL OF INDESTRUCTIBLE, PLIABLE PLASTI-THENE!
VOICES-- COMING FROM-- OUTSIDE!


AGAIN THEY TRY TO TRAP THE HULK!
WHY-- WHY DO THEY NEVER LEARN??

MUST I DESTROY EVERY-ONE--
--BEFORE THE HULK CAN BE FREE??


WHILE, A FEW SCANT YARDS AWAY--
WHY DID MY OWN DAUGHTER--HAVE TO FALL IN LOVE-- WITH A MAN LIKE-- BANNER??
THE MORE I FIGHT THE HULK-- THE MORE IT BREAKS HER HEART!
AND YET-- THERE'S NO OTHER WAY! I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE!

GENERAL ROSS!!
THE HULK IS AWAKE AGAIN!
HE'S BROKEN HIS BONDS-- WITHIN THE CAGE!
THEN THIS IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!
NOW WE'LL LEARN-- WHETHER WE'VE BEATEN HIM AT LAST!

SIR--THE LEADER REQUESTED COMPLETE PRIVACY--
CONFOUND THE BLASTED LEADER!!
I'M STILL IN COMMAND HERE, SOLDIER--AND DON'T FORGET IT!

BETTY! GET BACK TO YOUR QUARTERS!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU--NOT NOW!
NO! I'M STAYING! I'VE GOT TO SEE THIS THROUGH!
GENERAL! I TOLD THEM I WANTED TO BE ALONE!
I GIVE THE ORDERS HERE, MISTER!
JUST GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS, AND MAKE CERTAIN THE HULK REMAINS INSIDE THAT THING!
I TOLD YOU--NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN ESCAPE FROM THERE!
THAT VOICE! THAT FACE! I KNOW THEM--!!
BUT--THERE IS THE GIRL--THERE IS--BETTY!!
I THOUGHT SHE WAS MY FRIEND --BUT SHE BETRAYED ME!!
NOW I KNOW --THE HULK CAN HAVE NO FRIENDS!!
DID YOU--SEE HIS FACE?
DID YOU SEE--THE HATRED BLAZING IN HIS EYES--HATRED--THAT HE FEELS--FOR ME!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER NOW?
THE MONSTER WILL REMAIN IN THERE--FOREVER!
LOOK AT ME, HULK! SEE WHO HAS DEFEATED YOU!!
LOOK--YOU BRAINLESS, BABBLING BEAST!!
16.

I HAVE SEEN HIM--BEFORE--BUT WHERE??
WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HURT MY HEAD--WHEN I TRY TO THINK??
HIS SKIN--IS GREEN--THE SAME AS MINE!
THERE WAS ONLY ONE OTHER--WHO HAD SUCH SKIN--!
NOW I REMEMBER!! NOW I KNOW HIM!!
"HE WAS THE ONE WHO MADE THE HUMANOIDS--WHO SENT THEM TO FIGHT ME!"
"THEN HE TRICKED ME--MADE ME THINK HE WAS MY FRIEND!"
"I LET HIM SEND ME FAR AWAY--TO ANOTHER WORLD--"
"--WHERE ALL I DID WAS FIGHT--AND FIGHT--BECAUSE I TRUSTED HIM!!"
"I FINALLY WON THE PRIZE HE WANTED--BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW--WHEN I BROUGHT IT BACK--THAT IT WOULD KILL HIM!"
NOTE: THE ABOVE SCENES ARE FROM NUMEROUS BYGONE ISSUES OF OL' GREEN-SKIN--AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW!
--SCHOLERLY STAN.

AHH! AT LAST I SEE THE LIGHT OF RECOGNITION IN YOUR DULL AND BESTIAL EYES!
MY TRIUMPH WOULD BE EMPTY-- UNLESS YOU KNEW IT WAS I WHO HAD DEFEATED YOU!
NO ONE DEFEATS THE HULK!
P-THUMM
SPTANNG!
THE WALL--IT THREW ME BACK--LIKE A GIANT PIECE OF RUBBER!!
BUT--THE ANGRIER THE HULK GETS-- THE STRONGER I GET--
AND NOTHING CAN HOLD OUT AGAINST MY STRENGTH!!
NOTHING!!

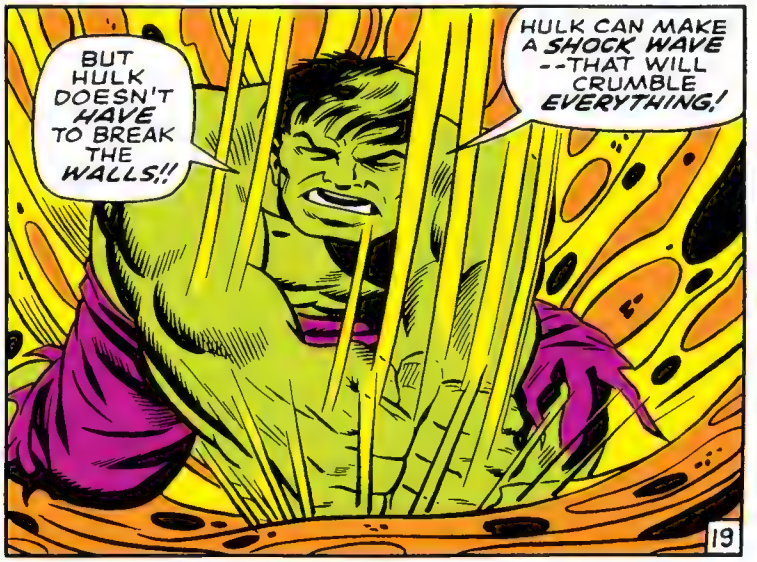
BTHOOK!

LOOK!
HE MUST HAVE THROWN THE IRON WAGON AGAINST THE CAGE WALL!
BUT THE WALL IS HOLDING--!!
IT'S SNAPPING BACK!!

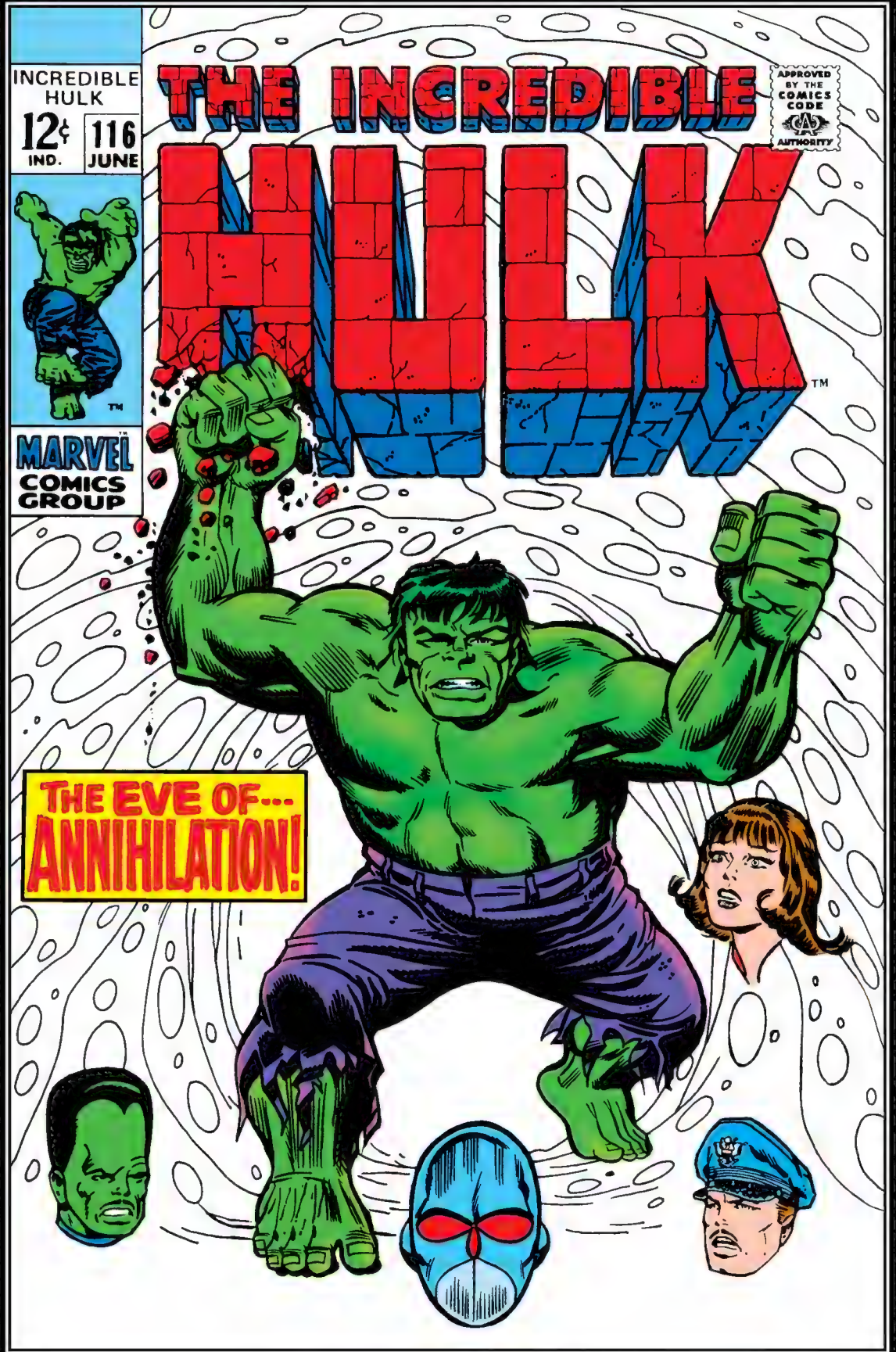
THWANG
TRUCK --FLIES BACK AT ME--!!

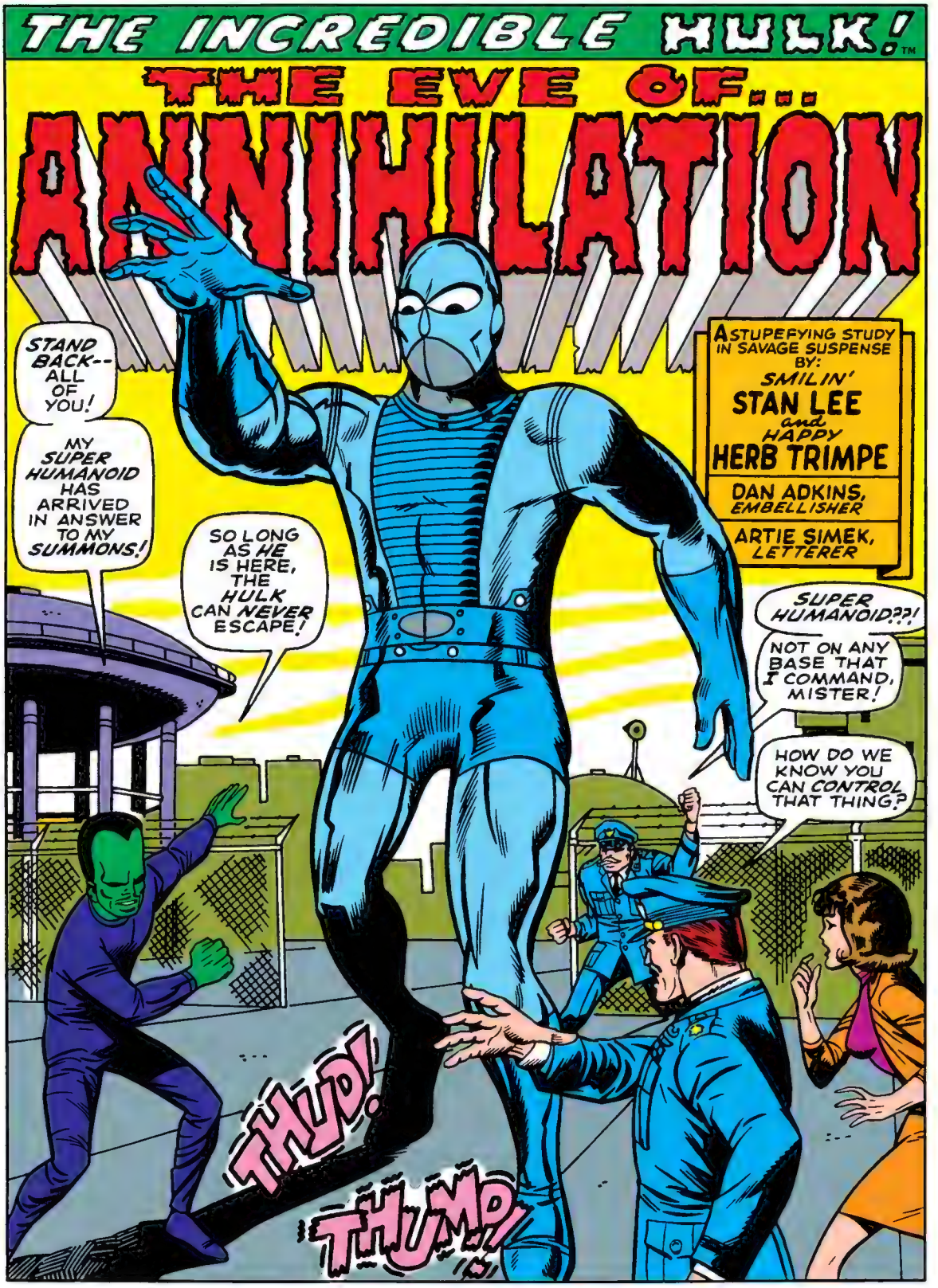
BUT HULK WILL STOP IT!

HOW CAN I ESCAPE-- IF NOTHING BREAKS THE WALLS???

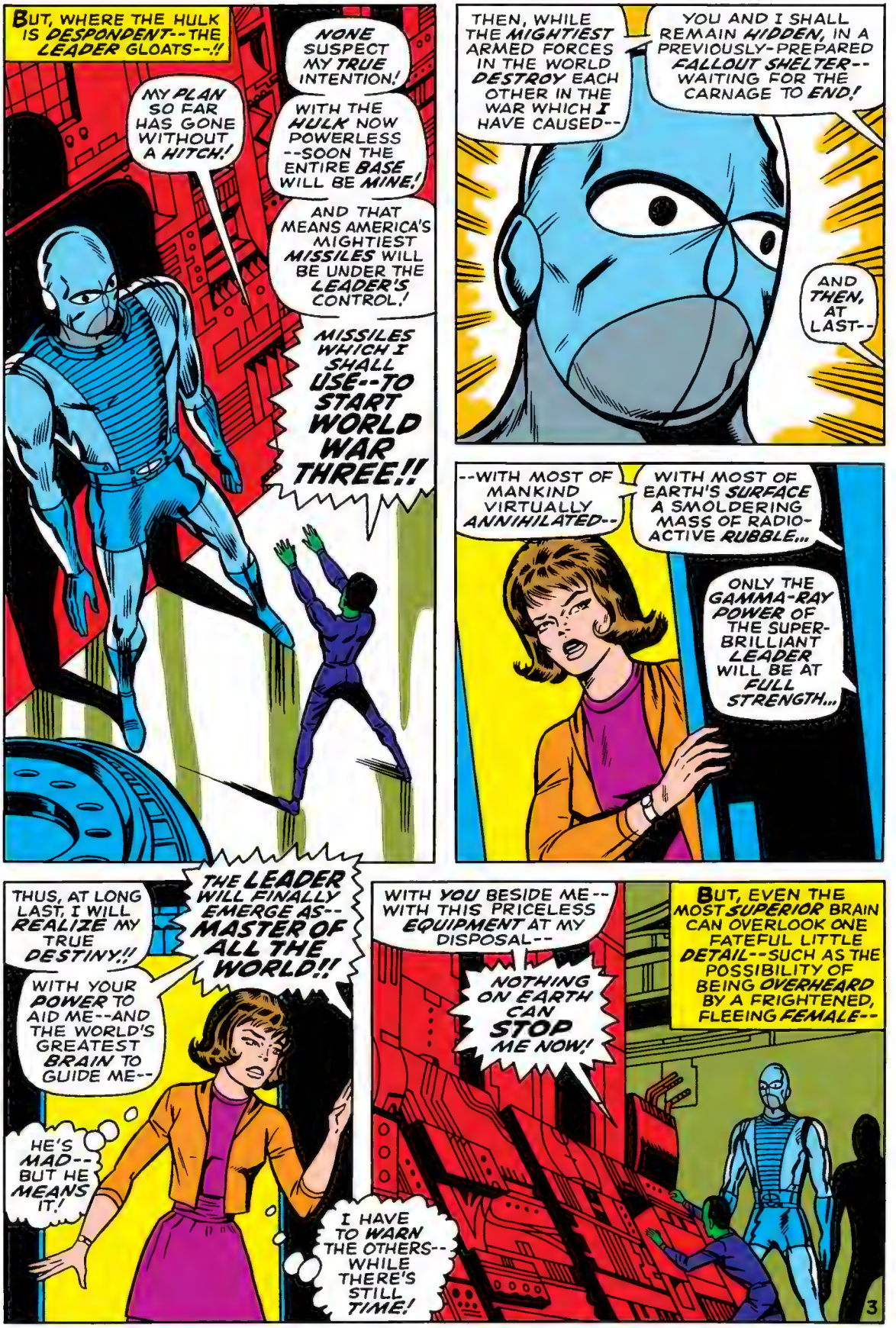

BUT HULK DOESN'T HAVE TO BREAK THE WALLS!!
HULK CAN MAKE A SHOCK WAVE --THAT WILL CRUMBLE EVERYTHING!

NO! NO! IT ALL BOUNCED BACK AT ME!!
I--STILL CAN FEEL IT--IN MY HEAD!
THERE IS NOTHING MORE THE HULK CAN DO!
NOTHING CAN FREE HIM NOW!
COME, BETTY--LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
EVEN THOUGH HE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE WANTED--
THE SIGHT OF THAT MAN'S GLOATING MAKES MY BLOOD RUN COLD!
PERHAPS, FOR BANNER, THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER--AT LAST!
THEY'VE GONE!
AND SO I STAND ALONE--TO BASK IN MY TRIUMPH!
A TRIUMPH FAR GREATER THAN ANY CAN SUSPECT!
FOR I WILL BE A DEADLIER MENACE TO MANKIND THAN YOU WOULD HAVE EVER BEEN!
AND ONLY ONE MAN MIGHT HAVE THE POWER TO CHALLENGE ME!
THE MAN I'VE RENDERED HELPLESS--FOR ALL TIME!
--TO BE HULKINUED!
20


INCREDIBLE HULK
12¢ IND.
116 JUNE
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE EVE OF... ANNIHILATION!


THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
THE EVE OF...
ANNIHILATION
A STUPEFYING STUDY IN SAVAGE SUSPENSE BY:
SMILIN' STAN LEE and HAPPY HERB TRIMPE
DAN ADKINS, EMBELLISHER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER
STAND BACK-- ALL OF YOU!
MY SUPER HUMANOID HAS ARRIVED IN ANSWER TO MY SUMMONS!
SO LONG AS HE IS HERE, THE HULK CAN NEVER ESCAPE!
SUPER HUMANOID???
NOT ON ANY BASE THAT I COMMAND, MISTER!
HOW DO WE KNOW YOU CAN CONTROL THAT THING?
THUD!
THUMP!

REMEMBER--I HAVE MERELY IMPRISONED THE HULK FOR YOU!*
FOR HIS SKIN IS COMPOSED OF INDESTRUCTIBLE PLASTI-THENE!
BUT THE SUPER HUMANOID CAN GUARD HIM BETTER THAN AN ARMY--!
*HE DID IT LAST ISH, WITHIN AN UNBREAKABLE LIVING CAGE, REMEMBER?--SMILEY.
NOW YOU NEED NEVER AGAIN FEAR THE HULK!
SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE--BUT, AS POST INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, I STILL DON'T TRUST HIM!
--YOU'RE THE ONLY JOE WHO'S EVER MANAGED TO GET THE HULK UNDER WRAPS LIKE YOU PROMISED--SO I'LL STRING ALONG WITH YOU!
NOW LOOK, LEADER, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF--
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I LIKE IT!
GENTLEMEN! GENTLEMEN! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!
I DESIRE ONLY TO SERVE YOU--TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MY PAST MISDEEDS!
SURE! SURE! BUT DON'T FORGET--YOU AND THAT NUTTY ROBOT OF YOURS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE LAB AREA TILL FURTHER NOTICE!
AND, IF THE HULK BREAKS LOOSE--YOU'LL ANSWER TO ME!
BUT, STILL RAGING WITHIN HIS CAGE OF LIVING PLASTI-THENE, THE HULK SEEMS FURTHER FROM FREEDOM THAN EVER--
LEADER CAUGHT ME--LIKE RAT IN A TRAP!
CAGE CAN'T BREAK!! THE HARDER HULK HITS IT--THE MORE IT BENDS--LIKE RUBBER!
HULK'S ONLY WEAPON IS STRENGTH!
IF STRENGTH CAN'T FREE ME--NOTHING CAN!! NOTHING!!
2

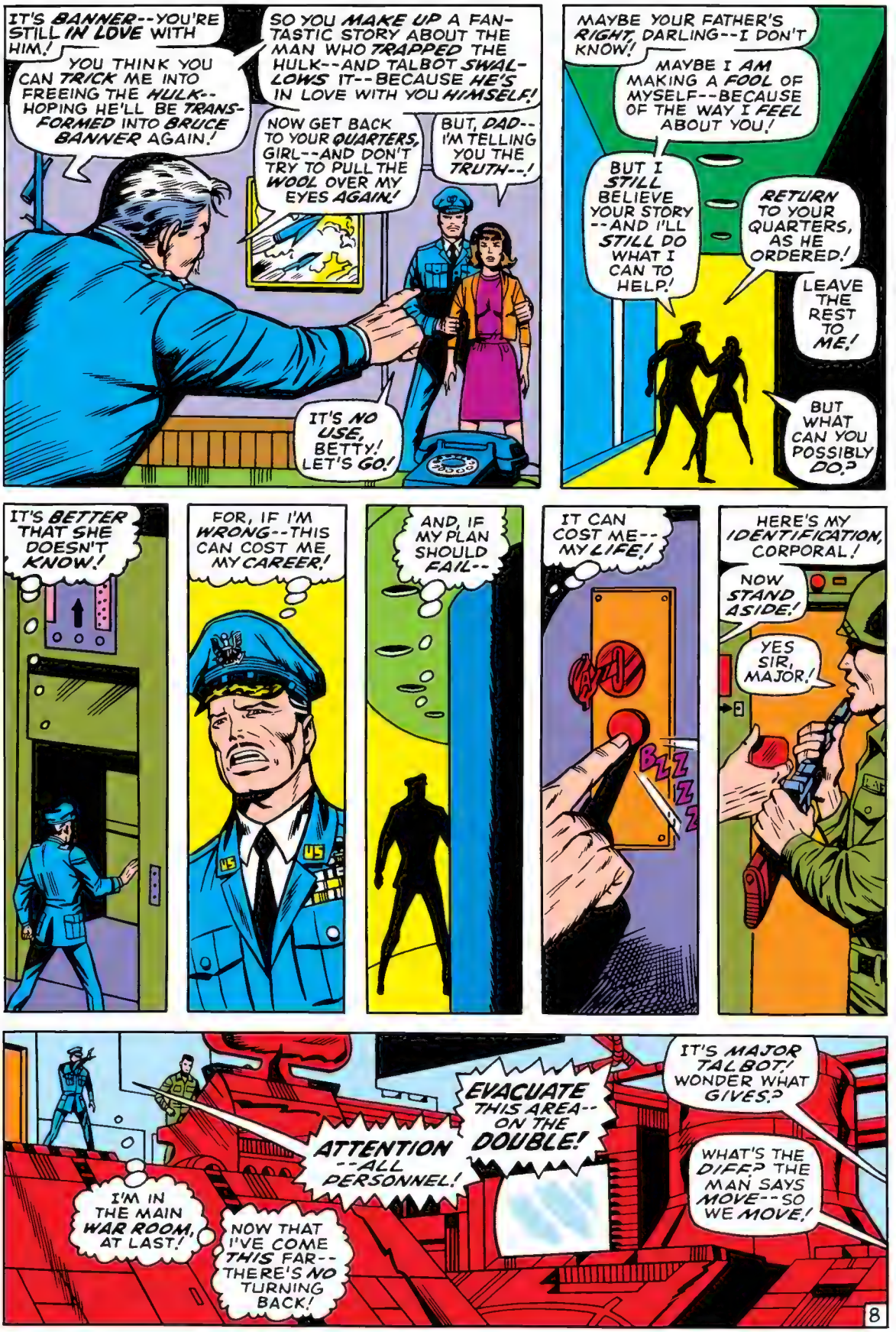

BUT, WHERE THE HULK IS DESPONDENT--THE LEADER GLOATS--!!
NONE SUSPECT MY TRUE INTENTION!
MY PLAN SO FAR HAS GONE WITHOUT A HITCH!
WITH THE HULK NOW POWERLESS --SOON THE ENTIRE BASE WILL BE MINE!
AND THAT MEANS AMERICA'S MIGHTIEST MISSILES WILL BE UNDER THE LEADER'S CONTROL!
MISSILES WHICH I SHALL USE--TO START WORLD WAR THREE!!
THEN, WHILE THE MIGHTIEST ARMED FORCES IN THE WORLD DESTROY EACH OTHER IN THE WAR WHICH I HAVE CAUSED--
YOU AND I SHALL REMAIN HIDDEN, IN A PREVIOUSLY-PREPARED FALLOUT SHELTER--WAITING FOR THE CARNAGE TO END!
AND THEN, AT LAST--
--WITH MOST OF MANKIND VIRTUALLY ANNIHILATED--
WITH MOST OF EARTH'S SURFACE A SMOLDERING MASS OF RADIO-ACTIVE RUBBLE...
ONLY THE GAMMA-RAY POWER OF THE SUPER-BRILLIANT LEADER WILL BE AT FULL STRENGTH...
THUS, AT LONG LAST, I WILL REALIZE MY TRUE DESTINY!!
THE LEADER WILL FINALLY EMERGE AS--MASTER OF ALL THE WORLD!!
WITH YOUR POWER TO AID ME--AND THE WORLD'S GREATEST BRAIN TO GUIDE ME--
HE'S MAD--BUT HE MEANS IT!
I HAVE TO WARN THE OTHERS--WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
WITH YOU BESIDE ME--WITH THIS PRICELESS EQUIPMENT AT MY DISPOSAL--
NOTHING ON EARTH CAN STOP ME NOW!
BUT, EVEN THE MOST SUPERIOR BRAIN CAN OVERLOOK ONE FATEFUL LITTLE DETAIL--SUCH AS THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING OVERHEARD BY A FRIGHTENED, FLEEING FEMALE--
3

AND SO...
MAJOR TALBOT, THAT LEADER CREEP ORDERED ALL OUR PERSONNEL OUT OF SECTOR G.!
SO HE THINKS HE CAN START GIVING ORDERS NOW, DOES HE?
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.!
GLENN.! GLENN.! THANK HEAVENS I FOUND YOU.!
BETTY!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM.! HE'S A MAD-MAN.!
HE PLANS TO PLUNGE THE ENTIRE WORLD INTO NUCLEAR WAR.!
EASY, HONEY--- EASY.! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.!
NOW TELL ME-- WHAT HAPPENED.?
IT'S THE LEADER.! I OVERHEARD HIM TALKING TO HIS HUMANOID.!
HE'S TRICKED US ALL.! HE'S OUT TO CONQUER THE ENTIRE PLANET.!
HE ONLY IMPRISONED THE HULK SO THAT HE'D BE SAFE FROM HIS ATTACK.!
I KNOW IT SOUNDS INSANE--
BUT HE MEANT IT.! HE THINKS HE'S UNBEAT-ABLE.!
HE PLANS TO USE OUR MISSILES-- TO PROVOKE AN ATOMIC WAR-- TO WEAKEN MANKIND.!
THEN, AIDED BY HIS SUPER-POWERFUL HUMANOID--HE INTENDS TO TAKE OVER.!
I BELIEVE YOU, BETTY.! IT'S WHAT I SUSPECTED ALL ALONG.!
BUT OUR PROBLEM IS--HOW CAN WE CONVINCE THE GENERAL.?
HOW DO WE GET PROOF.??
4

SECONDS LATER, AT BASE CONTROL---
MAN! IF THAT GREEN-SKINNED GARGOYLE EVER GETS OUT OF THERE--
I'M HEADIN' FOR THE HILLS-- BUT FAST!
MAJOR TALBOT! WHA--??
NO TIME TO TALK!
WE'VE GOT TO FREE THE HULK-- NOW!
SORRY, SIR! COULDN'T DO IT IF I WANTED TO!
BUT, HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE US!
THERE HE IS-- GLOWERING AT US WITH UNDISGUISED HATRED!
I WONDER-- IF HE CAN HEAR--WHAT WE'RE SAYING?
HE THINKS THAT I'M THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS CAPTIVITY!
HE THINKS THAT I-- BETRAYED HIM!
THEY COME TO STARE AT ME-- LIKE AN ANIMAL IN A CAGE!
THEY FEEL SAFE-- BECAUSE THEY KNOW HULK CAN'T ESCAPE!
BUT--WHY DO THEY BOTH LOOK --SO FRIGHTENED??
5

HULK DOESN'T CARE-- ABOUT HIM--
BUT, I TRUSTED THE GIRL--CALLED HER MY FRIEND--
AND THEN SHE HELPED THEM TO DO THIS TO ME!
KABOOM
HULK WILL NEVER TRUST ANYONE AGAIN!
HE--STRUCK THE CAGE SO HARD-- IT SHATTERED THE ELECTRONIC VIEWING CIRCUIT!
IT'S USELESS! THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE!
OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO FIND YOUR FATHER!
ONLY HE CAN GIVE THE ORDER THAT MIGHT STOP THE LEADER!
IF-- THERE STILL IS TIME!
6

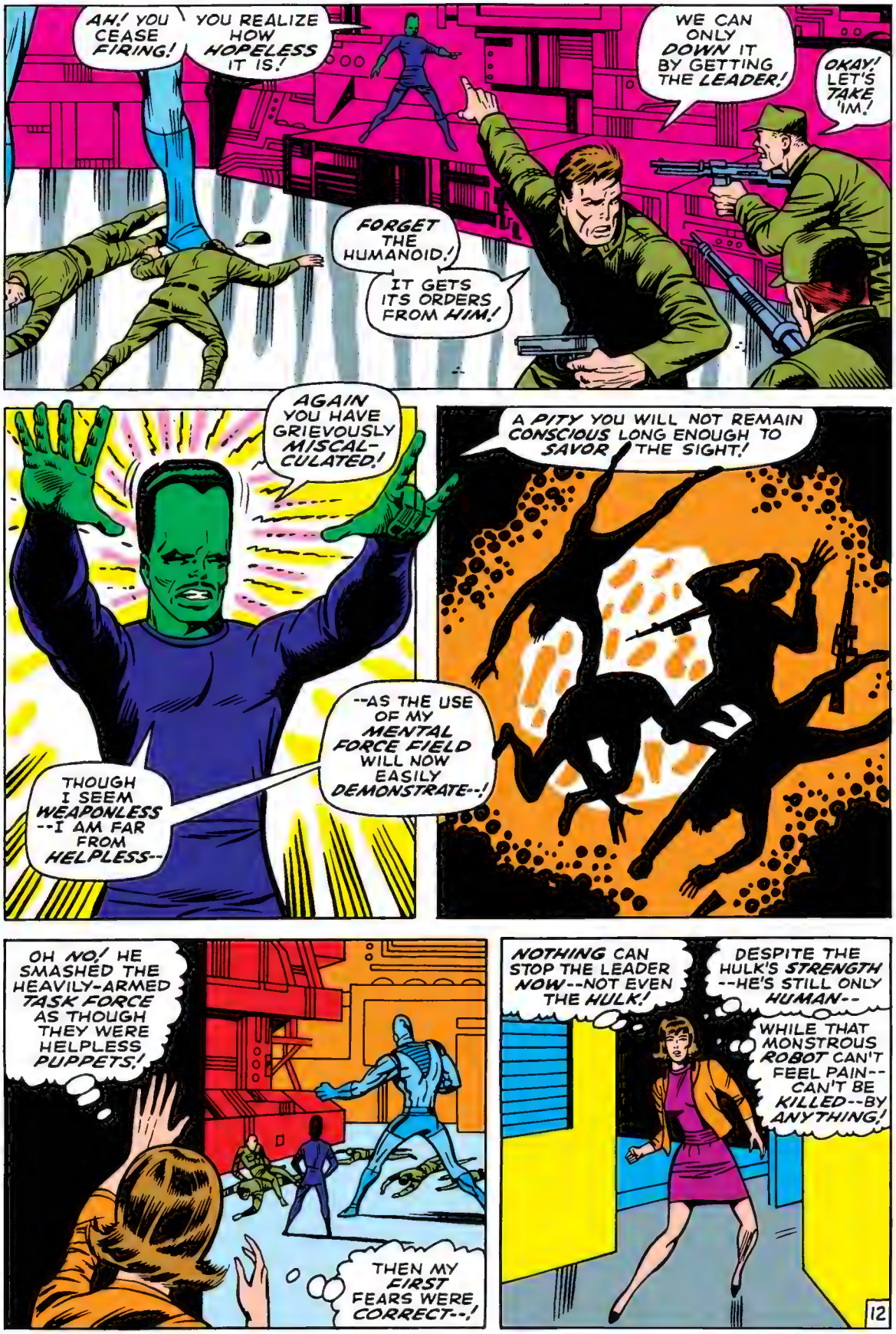
BUT, IS THERE STILL TIME??--LET'S FIND OUT...
I'VE GOT TO SEND A REPORT TO THE PENTAGON--ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED!
HOW IN BLAZES DO I WRITE IT SO IT'LL MAKE ANY SORT OF SENSE?
TELLING THEM ABOUT THE LEADER WILL BE HARD ENOUGH--
BUT HOW DO I EXPLAIN THAT BLASTED SUPER HUMANOID??
GENERAL! AN EMERGENCY'S COME UP!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO FREE THE HULK--AT ONCE!
TALBOT!! CONFOUND IT, MAN--HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU I'M NOT TO BE DISTURBED WHEN I'M WORKING ON A REPORT!
BUT, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SIR! THIS CONCERNS THE LEADER!
BETTY HAS LEARNED THAT HE PLANS TO GAIN CONTROL OF OUR MISSILES!
ONLY THE HULK CAN STOP HIM--AND HIS HUMANOID!
YOU LET MY DAUGHTER HOODWINK YOU WITH A STORY LIKE THAT??
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER?
BUT, IT'S TRUE, DAD! I OVERHEARD THE LEADER TALKING!
HE INTENDS TO USE OUR MISSILES --TO START A GLOBAL WAR!
QUIET--BOTH OF YOU!!
DO YOU TAKE ME FOR AN IDIOT??
DON'T YOU THINK I CAN SEE THRU BETTY'S PATHETIC LITTLE SCHEME!!
SCHEME? WHAT SCHEME?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DAD?
PA-THOOM!
7


IT'S BANNER--YOU'RE STILL IN LOVE WITH HIM!
YOU THINK YOU CAN TRICK ME INTO FREEING THE HULK--HOPING HE'LL BE TRANSFORMED INTO BRUCE BANNER AGAIN!
SO YOU MAKE UP A FANTASTIC STORY ABOUT THE MAN WHO TRAPPED THE HULK--AND TALBOT SWALLOWS IT--BECAUSE HE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU HIMSELF!
NOW GET BACK TO YOUR QUARTERS, GIRL--AND DON'T TRY TO PULL THE WOOL OVER MY EYES AGAIN!
BUT, DAD--I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH--!
IT'S NO USE, BETTY! LET'S GO!
MAYBE YOUR FATHER'S RIGHT, DARLING--I DON'T KNOW!
MAYBE I AM MAKING A FOOL OF MYSELF--BECAUSE OF THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT YOU!
BUT I STILL BELIEVE YOUR STORY--AND I'LL STILL DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP!
RETURN TO YOUR QUARTERS, AS HE ORDERED!
LEAVE THE REST TO ME!
BUT WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY DO?
IT'S BETTER THAT SHE DOESN'T KNOW!
FOR, IF I'M WRONG--THIS CAN COST ME MY CAREER!
AND, IF MY PLAN SHOULD FAIL--
IT CAN COST ME--MY LIFE!
BZZZZ
HERE'S MY IDENTIFICATION, CORPORAL!
NOW STAND ASIDE!
YES SIR, MAJOR!
I'M IN THE MAIN WAR ROOM, AT LAST!
NOW THAT I'VE COME THIS FAR--THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!
ATTENTION --ALL PERSONNEL!
EVACUATE THIS AREA--ON THE DOUBLE!
IT'S MAJOR TALBOT! WONDER WHAT GIVES?
WHAT'S THE DIFF? THE MAN SAYS MOVE--SO WE MOVE!

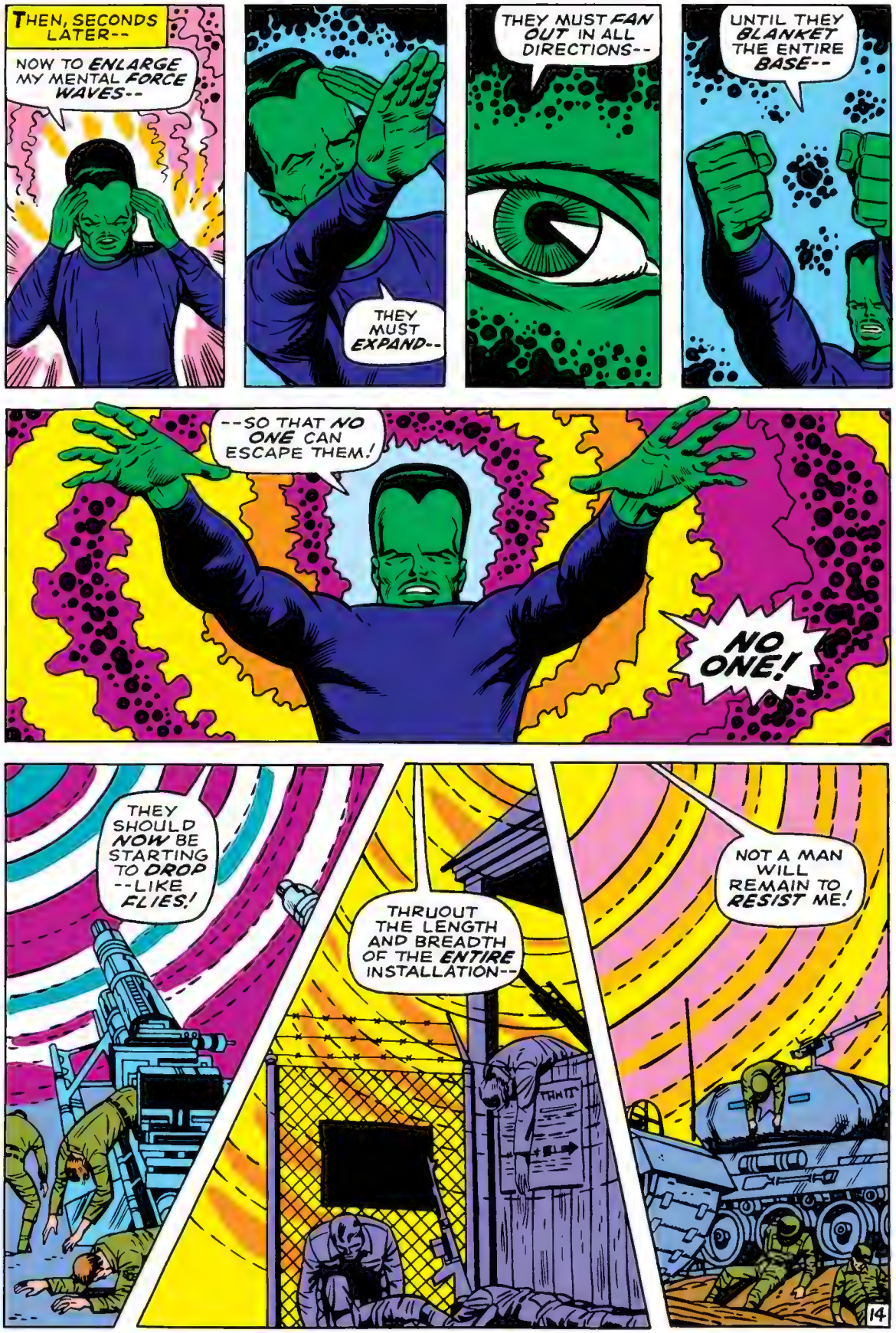
THE OTHERS HAVE GONE! WHAT'S KEEPING YOU TWO?
BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON, MAJOR--
BY WHAT AUTHORITY HAVE YOU ASSUMED COMMAND?
THIS IS MY AUTHORITY!
NOW ON YOUR FEET-- BOTH OF YOU!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE AND DON'T MAKE A MOVE UNTIL I'M DONE!
WHAT I'M DOING IS FOR THE SAKE OF ALL OF US--
BUT THERE JUST ISN'T TIME TO EXPLAIN!
AT ANY RATE, IT'S COMPLETELY OUT OF YOUR HANDS NOW!
CLAK
I'VE GOT TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL BASE UNITS-- IMMEDIATELY!
ATTENTION ALL UNITS! RED ALERT!! RED ALERT!!
APPREHEND MAN KNOWN AS LEADER--AND IMMOBILIZE GIANT HUMANOID!
9

MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE SOUNDPROOF LAB AREA, THE SCHEMING LEADER FINALIZES HIS DEADLY PLANS--
JUST AS THE HULK'S BODY WAS MIRACULOUSLY AFFECTED BY A GAMMA RAY ACCIDENT--
SO WAS MY INCOMPARABLE BRAIN!
THUS, I AM NOW THE INTELLECTUAL MASTER OF ANY MAN ALIVE!
JUST AS I SOON WILL BE ABSOLUTE MASTER OF EARTH!
THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS-- RUNNING IN THE CORRIDOR!
COMING TOWARDS THE LAB!
AN ARMED PLATOON-- RACING IN-- SURROUNDING ME!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE, MISTER!
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!
HE'S SIGNALLING THE ROBOT!
STOP 'IM-- BEFORE HE CAN ATTACK!
THE PUNY FOOLS ARE WISE TO ME!
A PITY THEY HAVE DONE SO-- TOO LATE!
10

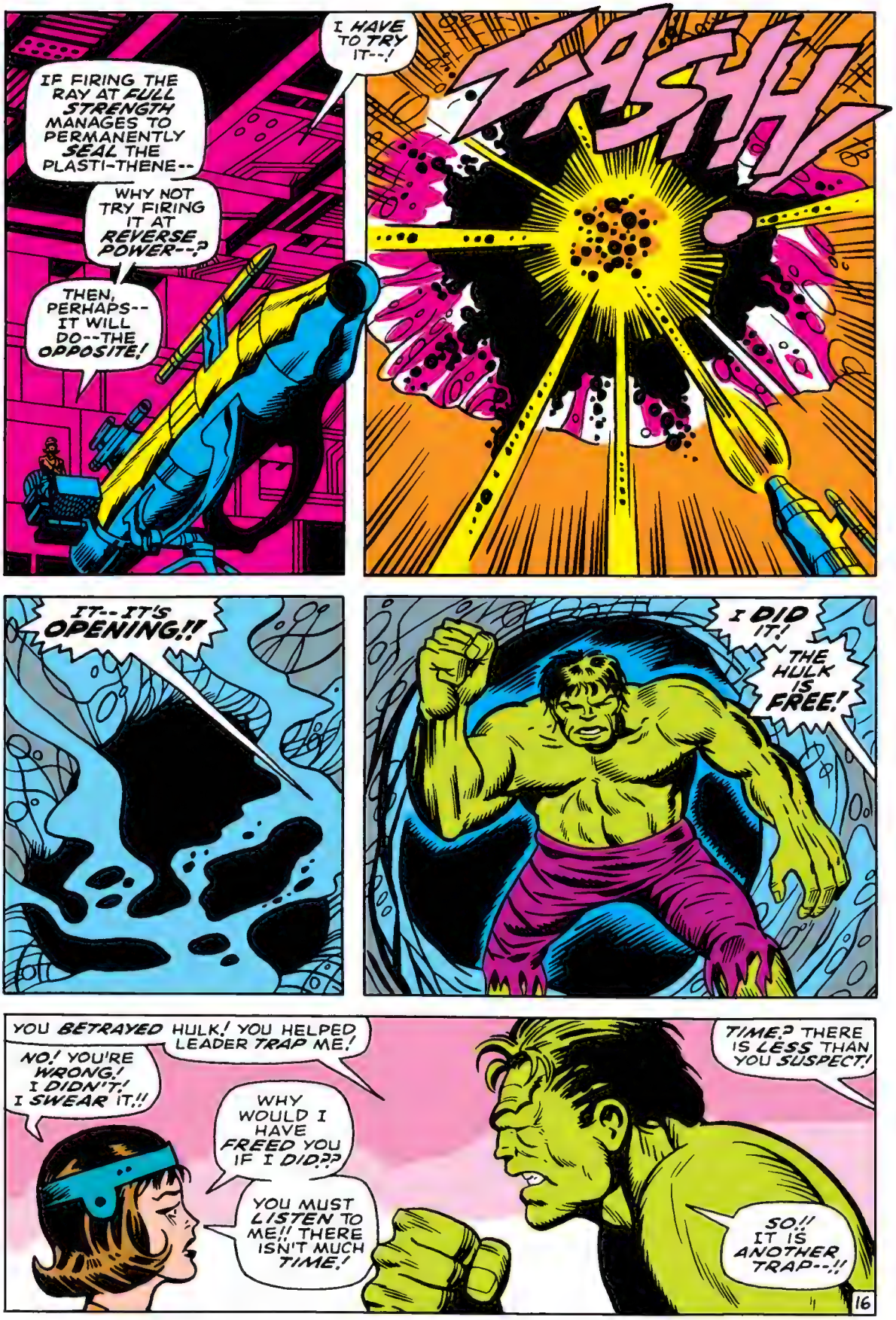
NO NEED TO SLAY THEM-- YET!
A SIMPLE STUN BLAST WILL SERVE US WELL-- FOR NOW!
QUICK!! GET THAT BAZOOKA ON 'IM-- WHILE WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE!
CHANCE!?? YOU HAVE NO CHANCE CAN'T YOU SEE I'M MERELY TOYING WITH YOU?
NOTHING CAN STOP MY SUPER-HUMANOID!!
NOTHING!
11

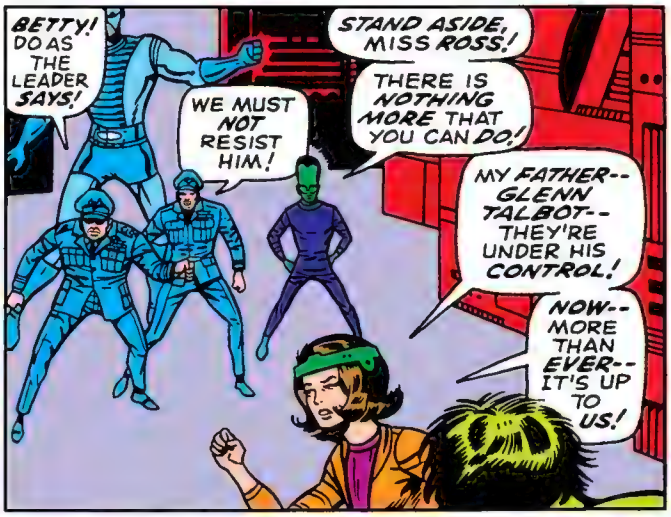

AH! YOU CEASE FIRING!
YOU REALIZE HOW HOPELESS IT IS!
WE CAN ONLY DOWN IT BY GETTING THE LEADER!
OKAY! LET'S TAKE 'IM!
FORGET THE HUMANOID!
IT GETS ITS ORDERS FROM HIM!
AGAIN YOU HAVE GRIEVOUSLY MISCAL-CULATED!
THOUGH I SEEM WEAPONLESS --I AM FAR FROM HELPLESS--
--AS THE USE OF MY MENTAL FORCE FIELD WILL NOW EASILY DEMONSTRATE--!
A PITY YOU WILL NOT REMAIN CONSCIOUS LONG ENOUGH TO SAVOR THE SIGHT!
OH NO! HE SMASHED THE HEAVILY-ARMED TASK FORCE AS THOUGH THEY WERE HELPLESS PUPPETS!
THEN MY FIRST FEARS WERE CORRECT--!
NOTHING CAN STOP THE LEADER NOW--NOT EVEN THE HULK!
DESPITE THE HULK'S STRENGTH --HE'S STILL ONLY HUMAN--
WHILE THAT MONSTROUS ROBOT CAN'T FEEL PAIN-- CAN'T BE KILLED--BY ANYTHING!
12

AT THAT MOMENT, THE LEADER WHIRLS AROUND, AND--
STAY WHERE YOU ARE, WOMAN!
I HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR YOU!
SHOULD ANYTHING GO WRONG, YOU WILL MAKE A PERFECT HOSTAGE FOR ME!
WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON HERE?
WHO ORDERED THAT ALARM TO BE--?? WAIT!
THOSE MEN-- SLUMPED ON THE FLOOR-- UNCONSCIOUS!
BETTY! YOU AND TALBOT-- WERE RIGHT!
THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG FOR YOU NOW!
THERE IS ONLY THE SUPREME WILL-- OF THE LEADER!!
DAD! LOOK OUT--!!
IT IS TOO LATE FOR WARNINGS, MISS ROSS!
NOTHING CAN EXCEED THE SPEED OF A WELL-AIMED MENTAL-BLAST!
DAD!
WHA-- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM??
MERELY PUT HIM TO SLEEP, MY DEAR!
JUST AS I SHALL DO TO THE ENTIRE POST!
THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO NEED TO SUBJECT YOU TO SUCH AN INDIGNITY!
THEREFORE, YOU MAY WEAR THIS PROTECTIVE HEAD DEVICE!
IT WILL SHIELD YOU FROM MY MENTAL EMANATIONS!
HE'S ALIVE-- STILL BREATHING!


THEN, SECONDS LATER--
NOW TO ENLARGE MY MENTAL FORCE WAVES--
THEY MUST EXPAND--
THEY MUST FAN OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS--
UNTIL THEY BLANKET THE ENTIRE BASE--
--SO THAT NO ONE CAN ESCAPE THEM!
NO ONE!
THEY SHOULD NOW BE STARTING TO DROP --LIKE FLIES!
THRUOUT THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION--
NOT A MAN WILL REMAIN TO RESIST ME!
14

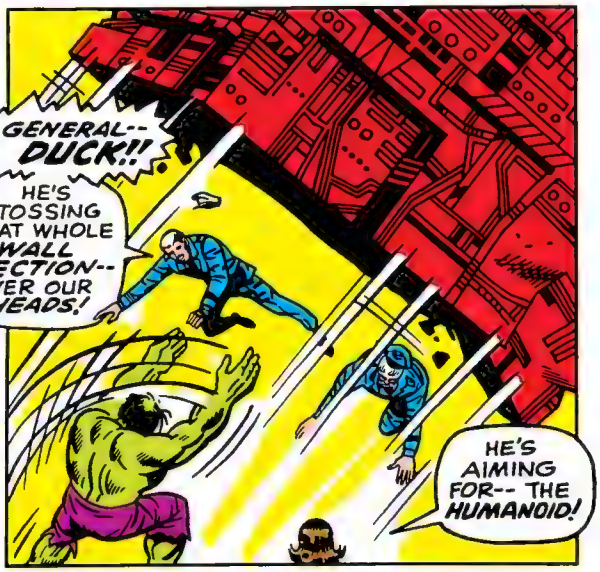
NOW LEAVE ME-- I HAVE THINGS TO DO!
BUT DO NOT TRY TO FLEE THE POST!
I AM MAINTAINING A MENTAL BARRIER AROUND ITS ENTIRE PERIMETER!
SO ATTEMPTED FLIGHT IS USELESS!
HE'S SO MANIACALLY CONFIDENT--
AND PERHAPS WITH GOOD REASON!
BUT NOW-- MORE THAN EVER--IF ONLY I COULD FREE THE HULK!!
ONLY HIS MONSTROUS STRENGTH MIGHT SAVE US NOW!
AND, AS FOR THE LEADER'S MENTAL FORCE WAVES--
--PERHAPS THEY MAY NOT AFFECT HIS OWN SLUGGISH, CLOUDED BRAIN!
BUT HOW-- HOW CAN I SET HIM FREE??
THE PLASTI-THENE CAGE WAS SEALED WITH THAT STRANGELY-POWERFUL WEAPON!
I--CAN ALMOST HEAR --WHAT BRUCE BANNER WOULD SAY TO ME NOW--!
15

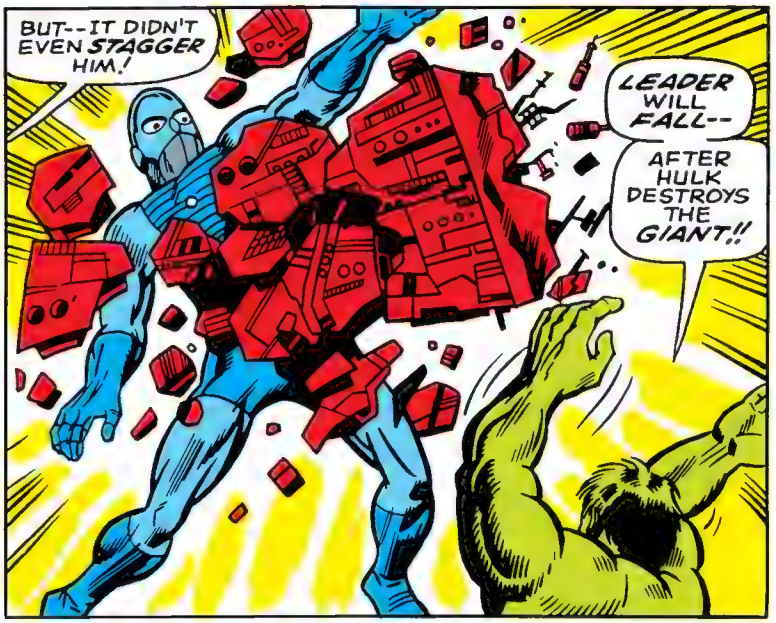

IF FIRING THE RAY AT FULL STRENGTH MANAGES TO PERMANENTLY SEAL THE PLASTI-THENE--
WHY NOT TRY FIRING IT AT REVERSE POWER--?
THEN, PERHAPS-- IT WILL DO--THE OPPOSITE!
I HAVE TO TRY IT--!
KA-SHA!
IT--IT'S OPENING!!
I DID IT!
THE HULK IS FREE!
YOU BETRAYED HULK! YOU HELPED LEADER TRAP ME!
NO! YOU'RE WRONG! I DIDN'T! I SWEAR IT!!
WHY WOULD I HAVE FREED YOU IF I DID??
YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!
TIME? THERE IS LESS THAN YOU SUSPECT!
SO!! IT IS ANOTHER TRAP--!!
16


BETTY! DO AS THE LEADER SAYS!
STAND ASIDE, MISS ROSS!
THERE IS NOTHING MORE THAT YOU CAN DO!
WE MUST NOT RESIST HIM!
MY FATHER-- GLENN TALBOT-- THEY'RE UNDER HIS CONTROL!
NOW-- MORE THAN EVER-- IT'S UP TO US!

HULK DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK-- DOESN'T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE!!
LEADER IS MY ENEMY!!
BUT-- THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW--

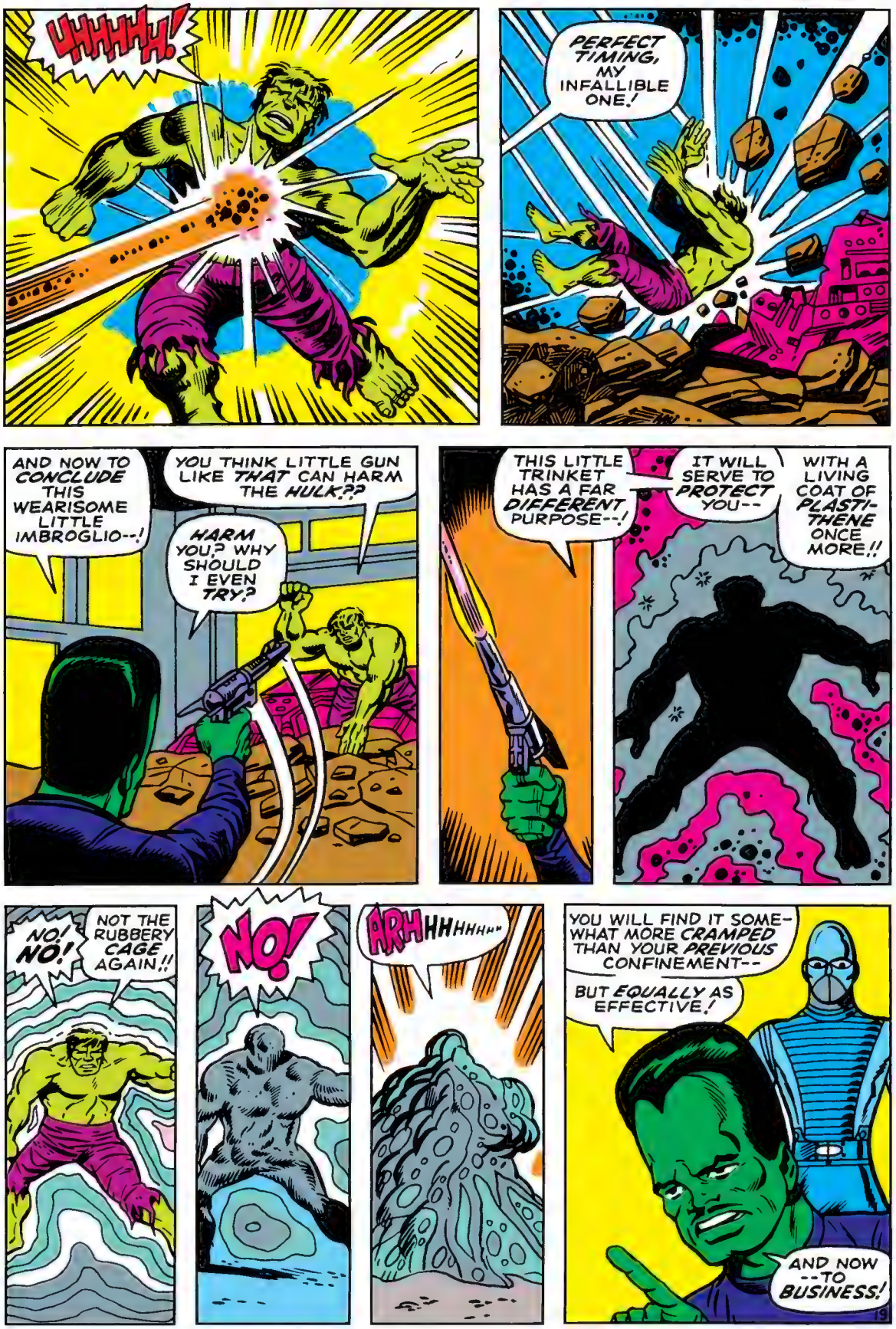
SO-- LEADER MUST BE DESTROYED!
SKR
KF

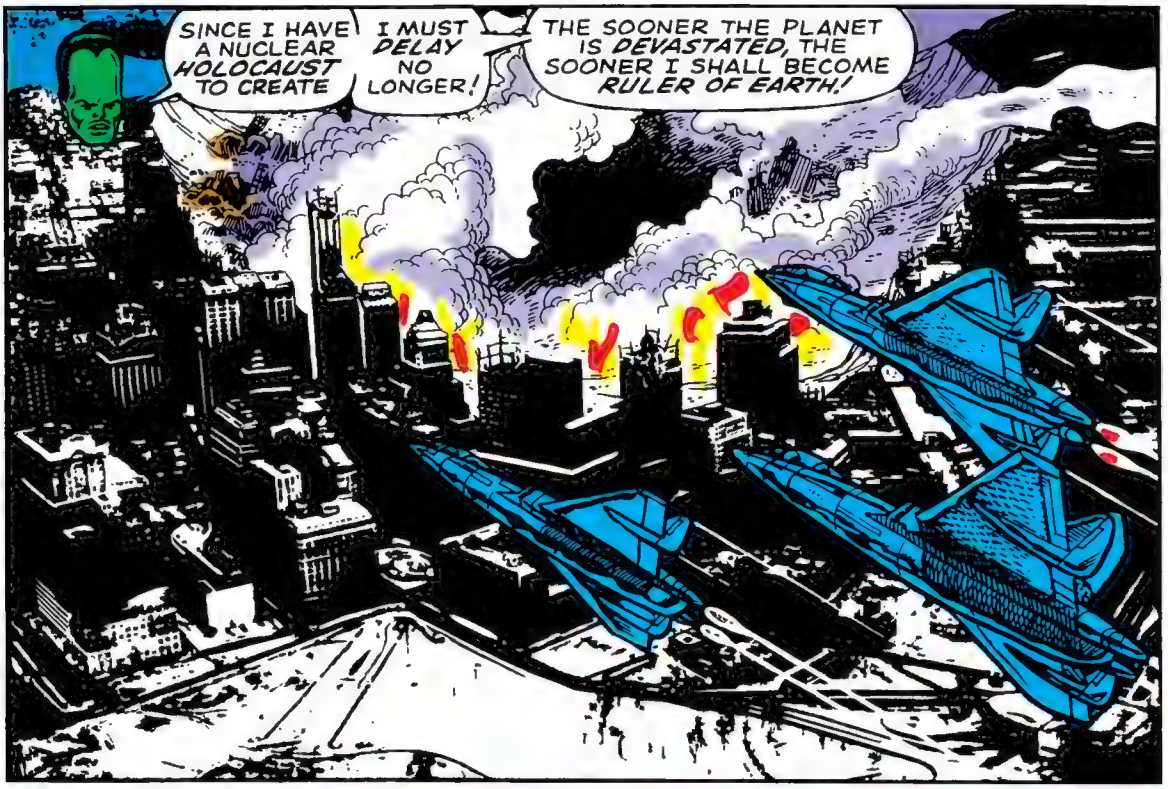

GENERAL-- DUCK!!
HE'S TOSSING THAT WHOLE WALL SECTION-- OVER OUR HEADS!
HE'S AIMING FOR-- THE HUMANOID!


BUT-- IT DIDN'T EVEN STAGGER HIM!
LEADER WILL FALL--
AFTER HULK DESTROYS THE GIANT!!

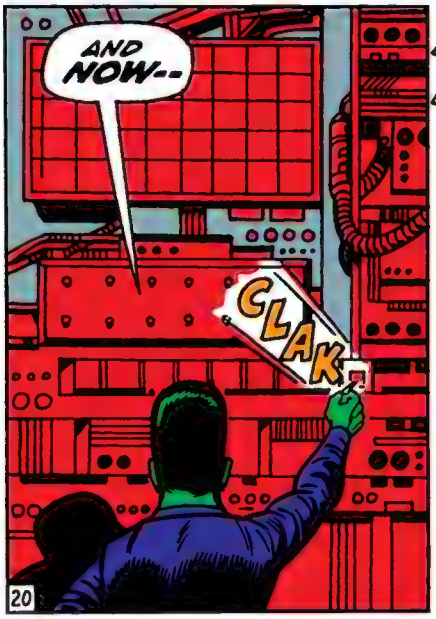
AND HULK KNOWS HOW--!!

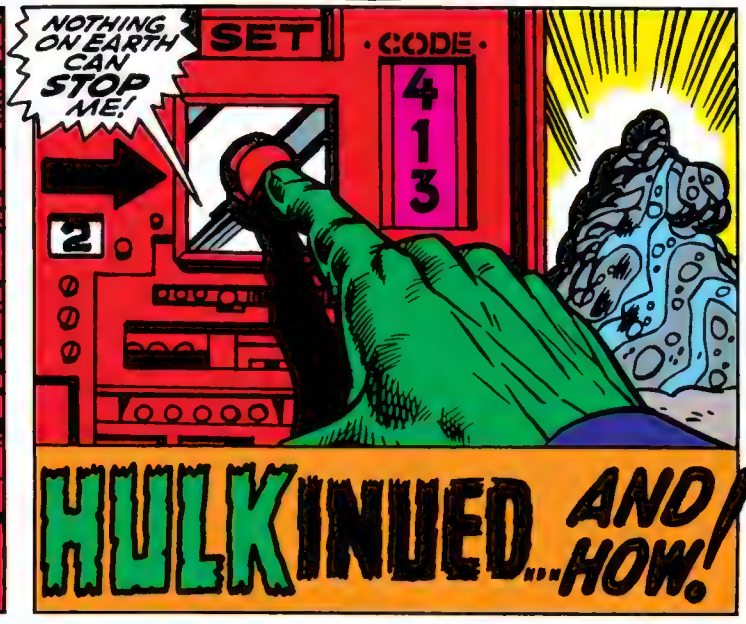
YOU BRAINLESS GARGOYLE!!
WHAT GOOD CAN IT DO YOU TO SHATTER THE CEMENT FLOOR??
RRR!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO--
MY SUPER-HUMANOID IS TOTALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE!!
HE WILL PROTECT ME!
AND NOW THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN VENT TO YOUR FUTILE DISPLAY OF TEMPER--
IT IS TIME THAT YOU WERE IMPRISONED ONCE MORE!
NO! HULK WILL NOT BE TRAPPED IN CAGE AGAIN!
AH-- GETTING SET TO LEAP, ARE YOU?
YES!! HULK WILL LEAP--
RIGHT AT YOU!!
SSSSZZ
QUICKLY!! STRIKE HIM DOWN!
18

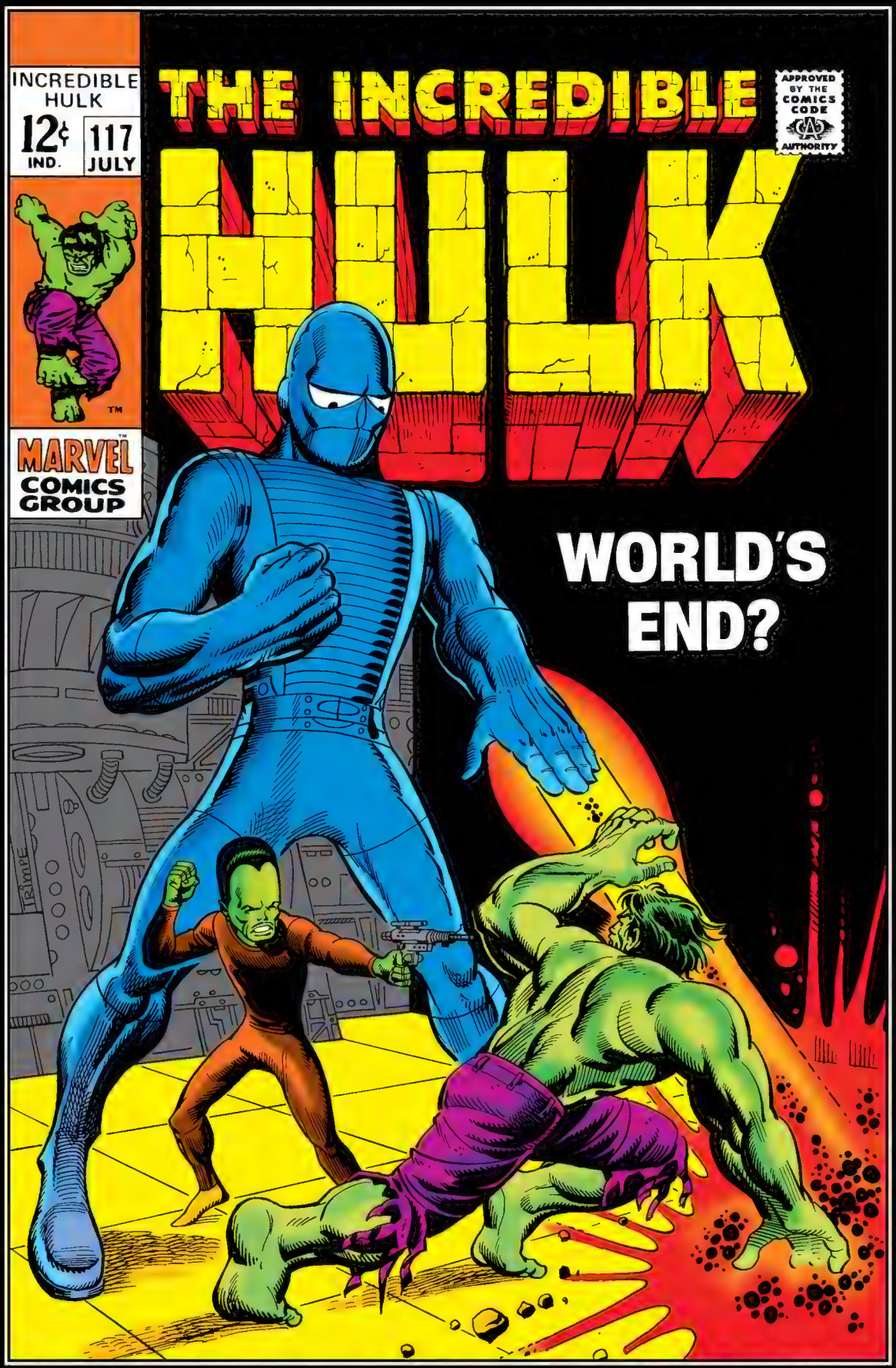

UHHHHH!
PERFECT TIMING, MY INFALLIBLE ONE!
AND NOW TO CONCLUDE THIS WEARISOME LITTLE IMBROGLIO--!
YOU THINK LITTLE GUN LIKE THAT CAN HARM THE HULK??
HARM YOU? WHY SHOULD I EVEN TRY?
THIS LITTLE TRINKET HAS A FAR DIFFERENT PURPOSE--!
IT WILL SERVE TO PROTECT YOU--
WITH A LIVING COAT OF PLASTI-THENE ONCE MORE!!
NO! NO!
NOT THE RUBBERY CAGE AGAIN!!
NO!
ARHHHHHHHH
YOU WILL FIND IT SOMEWHAT MORE CRAMPED THAN YOUR PREVIOUS CONFINEMENT--
BUT EQUALLY AS EFFECTIVE!
AND NOW --TO BUSINESS!


SINCE I HAVE A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST TO CREATE
I MUST DELAY NO LONGER!
THE SOONER THE PLANET IS DEVASTATED, THE SOONER I SHALL BECOME RULER OF EARTH!

THE MISSILES!!! YOU--YOU CANNOT LAUNCH THE MISSILES!!
THE LEADER CAN DO ANYTHING!
THIS KEY SHALL WIN ME A WORLD!


AND NOW--
CLAK


NOTHING ON EARTH CAN STOP ME!
SET
CODE
413
2
HULKINUED... AND HOW!


INCREDIBLE HULK
12¢ IND.
117 JULY
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
WORLD'S END?

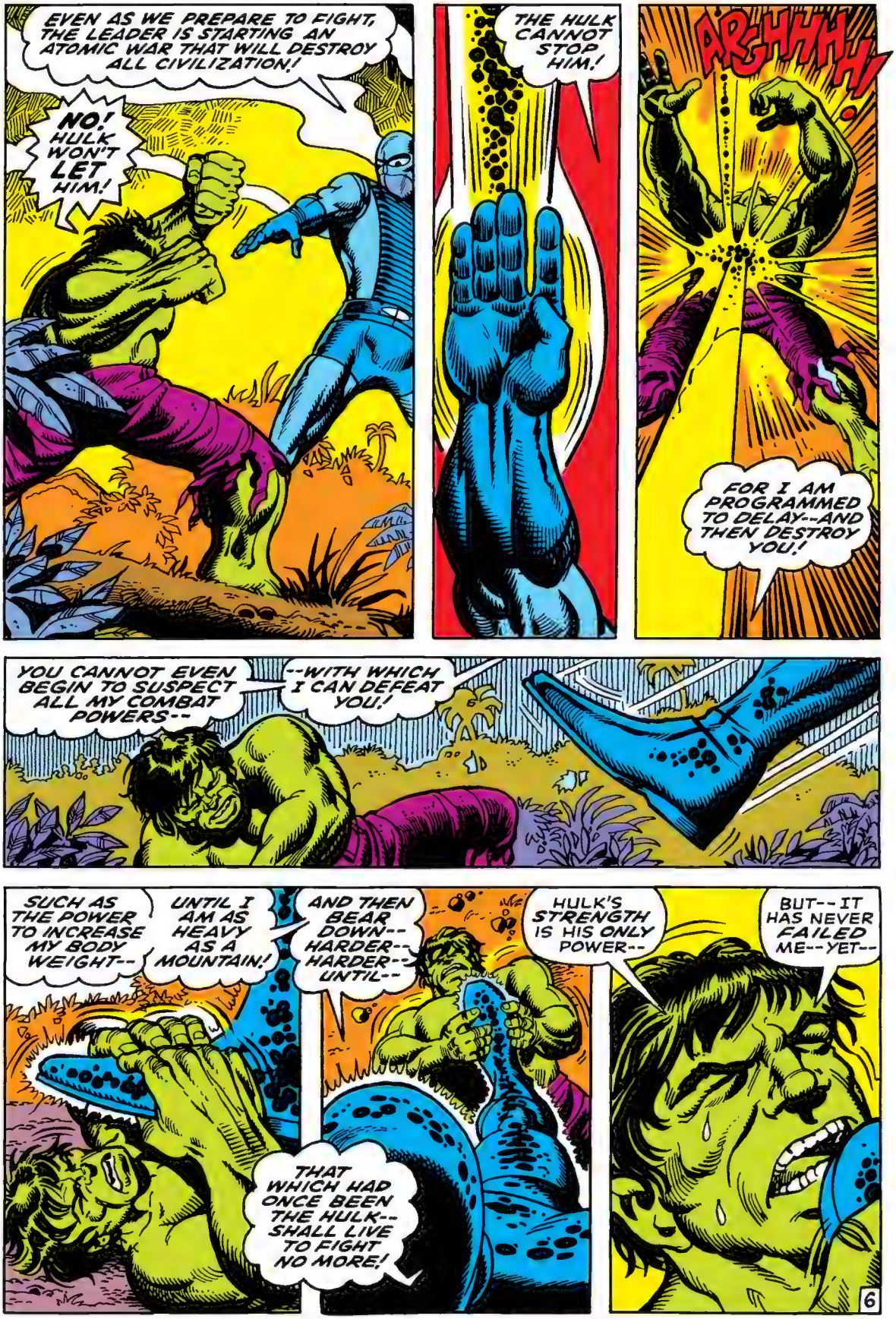
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
"WORLD'S END?"
LEADER--! DON'T DO IT!
IF YOU LAUNCH THAT MISSILE, IT WILL START WORLD WAR III!
EXACTLY, MISS ROSS!
THEN, ONCE THE EAST AND THE WEST HAVE TOTALLY DESTROYED EACH OTHER... I ALONE SHALL RULE!
AND, SINCE THIS ENTIRE BASE IS UNDER MY MENTAL CONTROL...NO ONE CAN STOP ME!
CLAK!
--NOT EVEN THE HULK, WHO IS ONCE AGAIN TRAPPED BENEATH MY CAGE OF LIVING PLASTI-THENE!
AND NOW--WHEN I PRESS THE BUTTON A SECOND TIME--
NO! NO!
USAF
PREPARE YOURSELF, PILGRIM--
--THERE'S ACTION A'COMING SUCH AS YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN--!!
LAUNCHED BY: SMILIN' STAN LEE
HAPPY and HERBIE TRIMPE
CREWMAN: ADORABLE ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

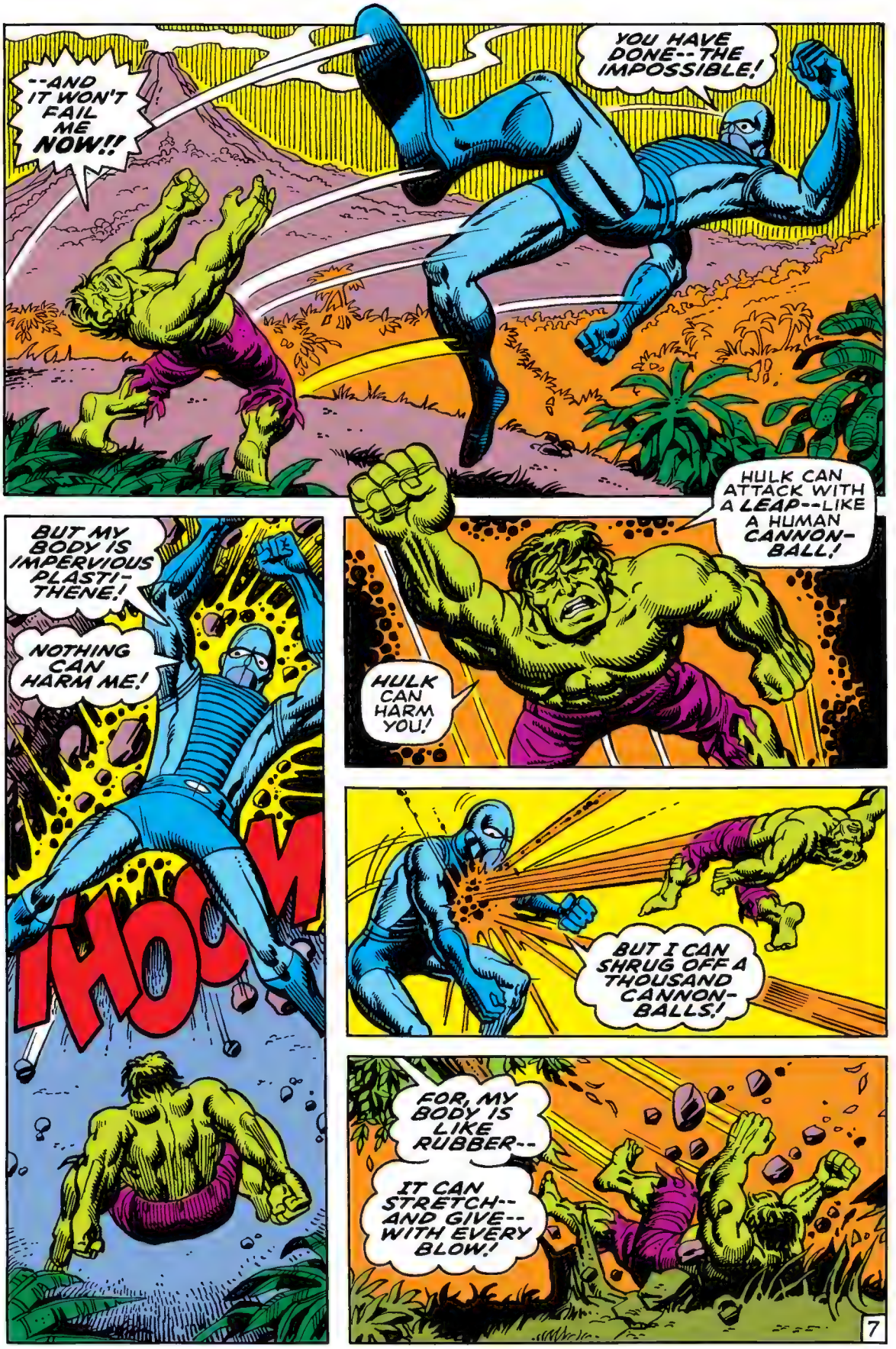
YOU MUST BE STOPPED! YOU MUST!
WITH DAD--AND ALL HIS TROOPS--UNDER SOME SORT OF TERRIBLE SPELL--
ONLY THE HULK HAS THE POWER TO SAVE US!
HAVE I NOT TOLD YOU? THE HULK IS POWERLESS!
NOT EVEN HIS BESTIAL STRENGTH CAN FREE HIM FROM MY ALL-ENVELOPING PLASTI-THENE!
SO, IT IS USELESS TO SEEK TO DISTRACT ME--
NOTHING CAN PREVENT ME FROM PUSHING THE FATEFUL BUTTON A SECOND TIME!
BUT, EVEN AS HE SPEAKS--THE LEADER'S MERCILESS VOICE FILTERS THRU THE LIVING PLASTIC--WHERE IT REACHES--
--THE EARS OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
CAN'T UNDERSTAND--EVERYTHING HE SAYS--BUT I KNOW ENOUGH!
IF I DON'T BREAK FREE--MILLIONS WILL DIE IN WAR!!
EVEN THOUGH THEY MADE HULK AN OUTCAST--
--CAN'T LET LEADER--MURDER ALL THOSE--INNOCENT PEOPLE!
HULK--KEEP TRYING!! YOU MUST BREAK FREE! YOU MUST!
HULK WILL BREAK FREE!
YOUR CHILDISH OUTBURST WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING, MISS ROSS!
HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH CANNOT DEFEAT MY SUPER-HUMAN BRAIN!
IT CAN! I KNOW IT CAN!
IF HE'LL ONLY GET THE CHANCE!
2

AND, WITHIN THE OOZING, CLINGING, ALL-ENVELOPING MASS OF PLASTI-THENE, THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL LIVING BEING EXERTS HIMSELF--AS HE HAS NEVER EXERTED HIMSELF BEFORE--
THE MORE I STRUGGLE-- THE TIGHTER IT WRAPS ITSELF AROUND ME!!
BUT, THE MADDER HULK GETS--THE STRONGER HULK BECOMES!!
I'LL NEVER STOP-- I'LL NEVER GIVE UP!
HULK MUST BREAK FREE! HULK CAN BREAK FREE!
HULK WILL BREAK FREE!
3

IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!! NOBODY COULD STRUGGLE SO LONG WITHIN MY LIVING CAGE!
AND YET--HIS MOVEMENTS GROW STRONGER INSTEAD OF WEAKER!
BUT, EVEN IF A MIRACLE OCCURS--EVEN IF HE SHOULD BREAK OUT--IT WILL AVAIL HIM NOTHING!!
MY SUPER-HUMANOID STANDS READY TO DEFEAT HIM--AS HE HAS DONE BEFORE!!
HE NEVER DEFEATED HULK!! NO ONE EVER DEFEATED HULK!
IT WAS A TRICK!! THEY TOOK ME BY SURPRISE!
BUT NO ONE WILL EVER TAKE HULK BY SURPRISE AGAIN!! NO ONE!!
NO ONE!
NO ONE!
HE'S FREE! THE HULK BROKE FREE!
4

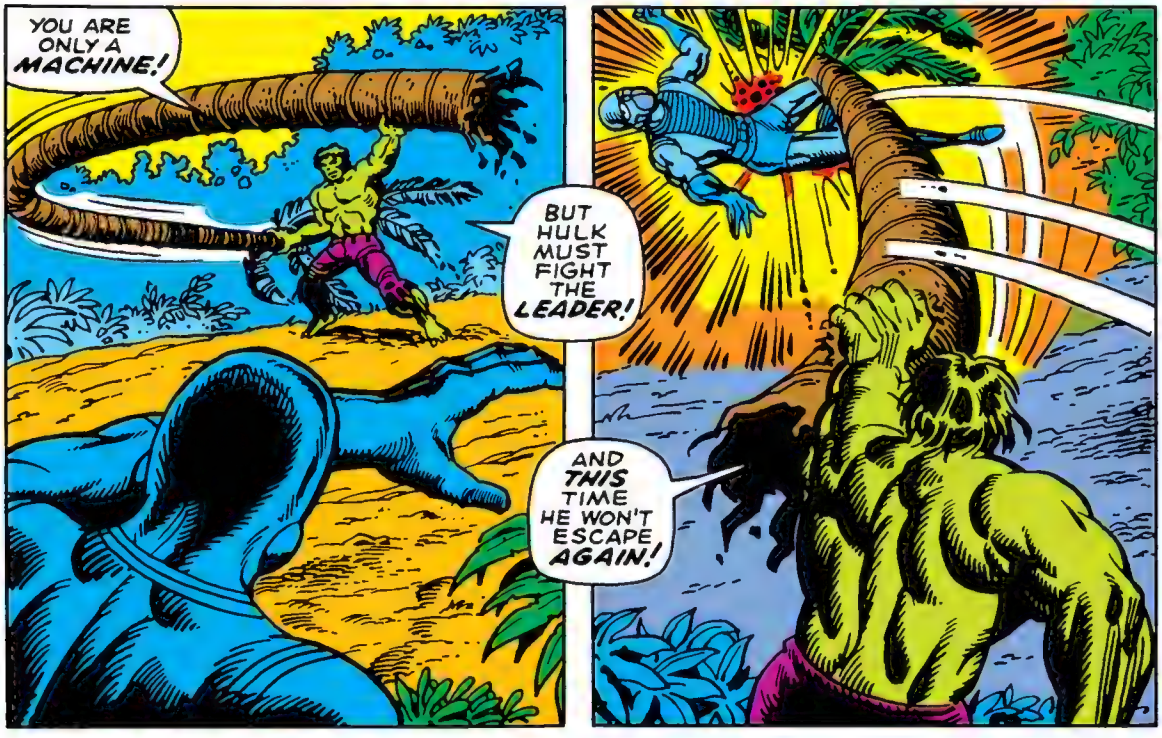
NOW, NOT EVEN YOU WILL STOP HULK-- FROM SMASHING LEADER!
NOTHING CAN BEAT ME TWICE!
FOOL! MY SUPER-HUMANOID WAS EXPRESSLY CREATED JUST TO BE YOUR MASTER!
BUT, MY EQUIPMENT IS FAR TOO VALUABLE TO BE DAMAGED BY YOUR FIGHTING--
I CAN'T HAVE YOU FALL-ING AGAINST IT!
AND SO-- YOU CANNOT BATTLE HERE!
INSTEAD-- I SHALL TRANSPORT YOU BOTH TO A FAR-OFF PLACE--
--WHERE IT WILL NOT MATTER WHICH OF YOU SHALL TRIUMPH!
SHOOT!
IT IS DONE!
EVEN IF HE ESCAPES HIS FATE--HE IS NOW TOO FAR AWAY TO HALT MY PLAN!
AND SO-- THE LEADER WINS AGAIN!
EVEN AS THE HOMICIDIAL, GREEN-SKINNED MENACE GLOATS-- TWO MIGHTY FIGURES SEEM TO MATERIAL-IZE ON A FAR, FAR DISTANT VOLCANIC ISLE--
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE WE ARE!!
BUT NOT IN TIME TO STOP THE LEADER!
HULK WILL DESTROY YOU!
HULK DIDN'T KNOW YOU CAN TALK!
MY WORDS ARE MERELY VERBAL SYMBOLS OF THE LEADER'S PROGRAMMING!

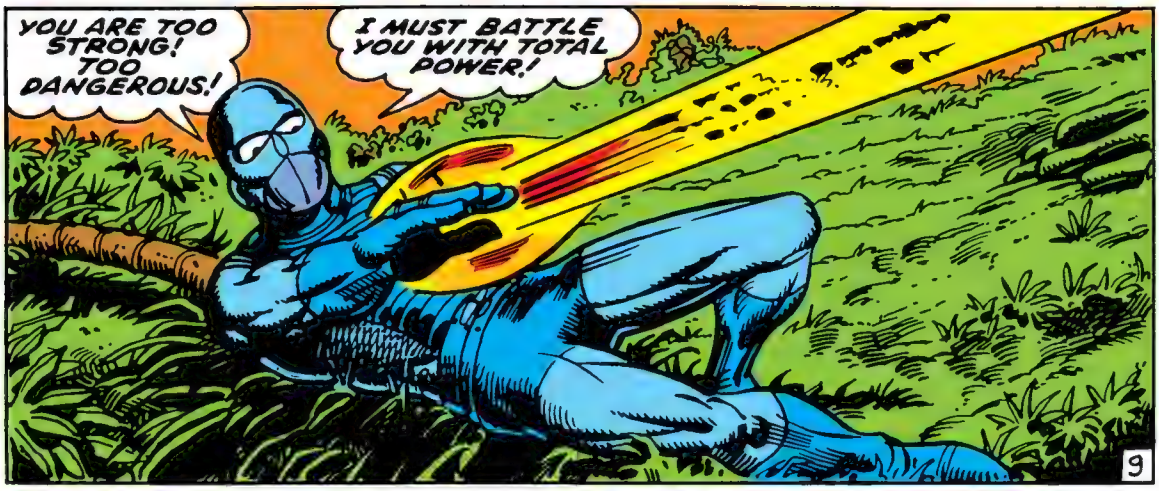

EVEN AS WE PREPARE TO FIGHT, THE LEADER IS STARTING AN ATOMIC WAR THAT WILL DESTROY ALL CIVILIZATION!
NO! HULK WON'T LET HIM!
THE HULK CANNOT STOP HIM!
AR-HHH-H!
FOR I AM PROGRAMMED TO DELAY--AND THEN DESTROY YOU!
YOU CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO SUSPECT ALL MY COMBAT POWERS--
--WITH WHICH I CAN DEFEAT YOU!
SUCH AS THE POWER TO INCREASE MY BODY WEIGHT--
UNTIL I AM AS HEAVY AS A MOUNTAIN!
AND THEN BEAR DOWN--HARDER--HARDER--UNTIL--
HULK'S STRENGTH IS HIS ONLY POWER--
BUT--IT HAS NEVER FAILED ME--YET--
THAT WHICH HAD ONCE BEEN THE HULK--SHALL LIVE TO FIGHT NO MORE!


--AND IT WON'T FAIL ME NOW!!
YOU HAVE DONE--THE IMPOSSIBLE!
HULK CAN ATTACK WITH A LEAP--LIKE A HUMAN CANNON-BALL!
HULK CAN HARM YOU!
BUT MY BODY IS IMPERVIOUS PLASTI-THENE!
NOTHING CAN HARM ME!
THOOM
BUT I CAN SHRUG OFF A THOUSAND CANNON-BALLS!
FOR, MY BODY IS LIKE RUBBER--
IT CAN STRETCH--AND GIVE--WITH EVERY BLOW!

BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO RELY UPON MERE DEFENSES--
I WAS CREATED TO ATTACK!
THERE IS NOTHING THAT THE HULK CAN DO--
AT WHICH THE SUPER-HUMANOID CANNOT EXCEED!
HAVE TO CRUSH HIM FAST-- BEFORE LEADER FIRES ROCKET!
WHY IS IT ALWAYS SO HARD FOR HULK TO THINK??
BUT HOW? HOW?
AND NOW THE HULK MUST PERISH!
NEVER
SUDDENLY, THE GREEN-SKINNED GARGANTUS GIVES WAY TO A FIT OF INDESCRIBABLE RAGE--A SEETHING SPELL OF FURY WHICH ALMOST COMPLETELY BLANKETS HIS BRAIN, TRANSFORMING HIM INTO A HUMAN, RAMPAGING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION--!
MAYBE HULK CAN'T THINK-- BUT HULK CAN FIGHT!!
HULK CAN SMASH AND STRIKE UNTIL NO ONE IS LEFT TO FIGHT!
GRRRAK!
8

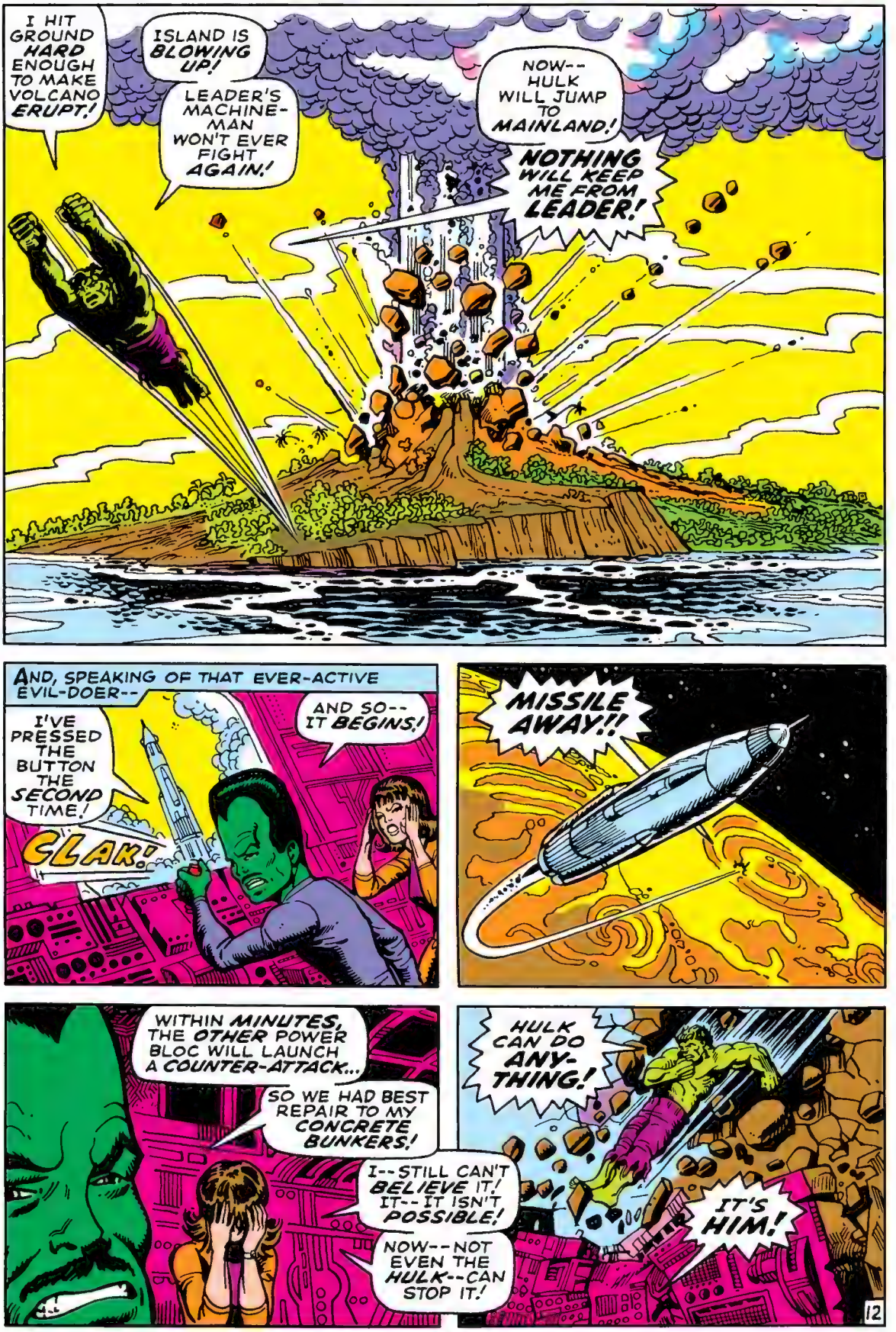
THIS TIME HULK WON'T GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO ATTACK AGAIN!
BLOK


YOU ARE ONLY A MACHINE!
BUT HULK MUST FIGHT THE LEADER!
AND THIS TIME HE WON'T ESCAPE AGAIN!

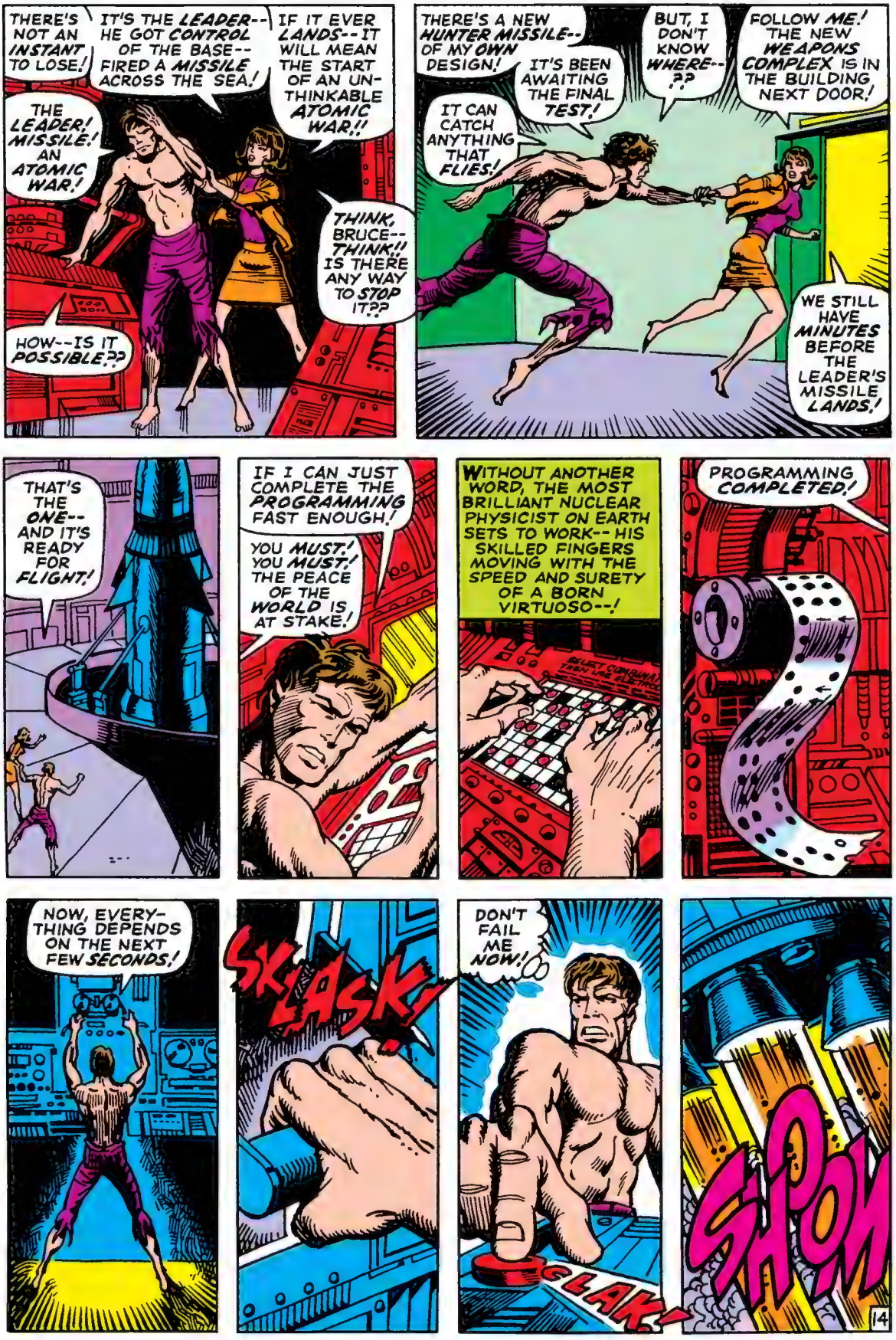

YOU ARE TOO STRONG! TOO DANGEROUS!
I MUST BATTLE YOU WITH TOTAL POWER!

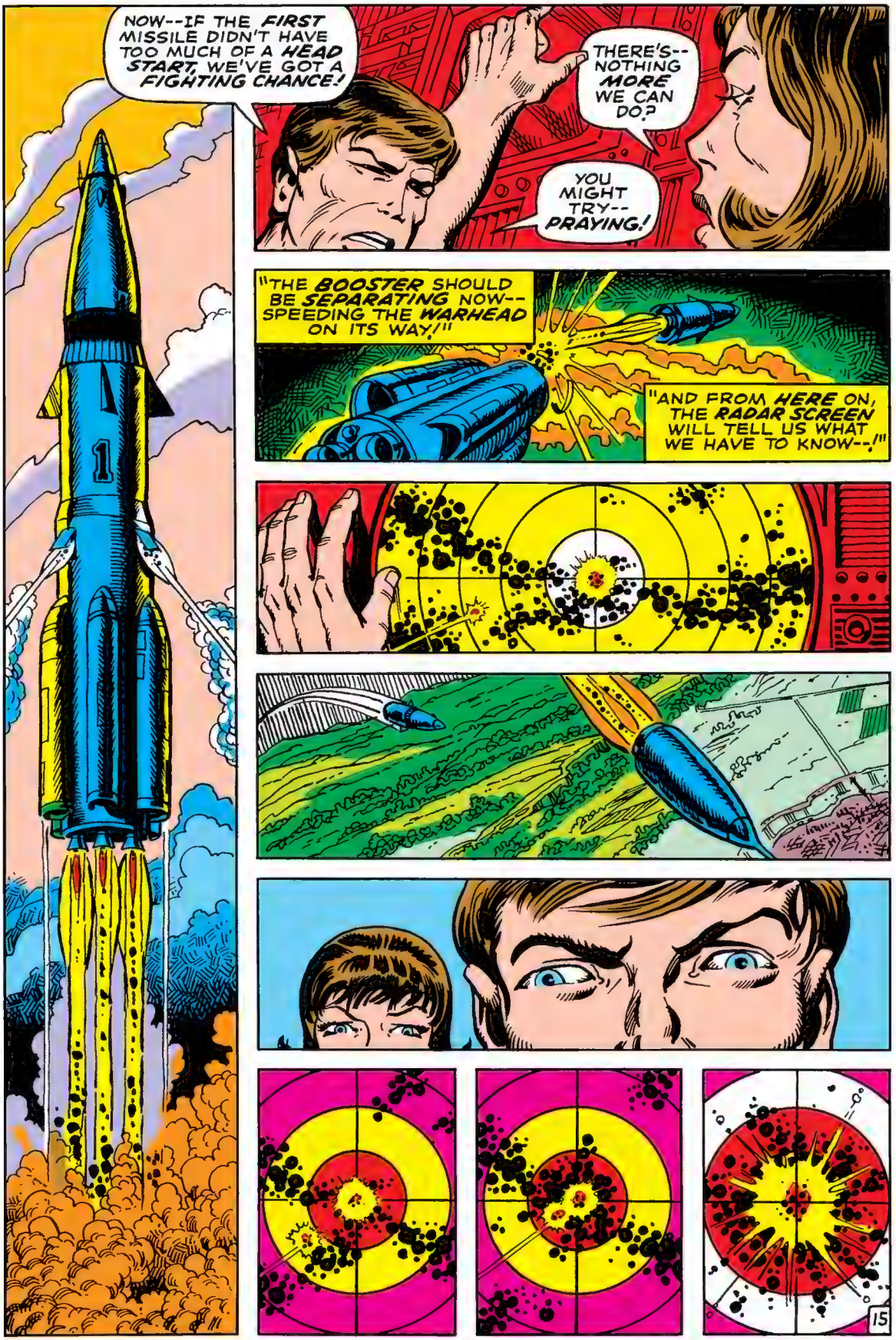
ASH!
TOTAL POWER?
NOW HULK WILL SHOW YOU WHAT POWER REALLY IS--!!
YOU'LL NEVER CATCH HULK WITH BEAM AGAIN!
THUD
FOOM
WHOOSH!
WHIZZ
10

THOO
OOOM!

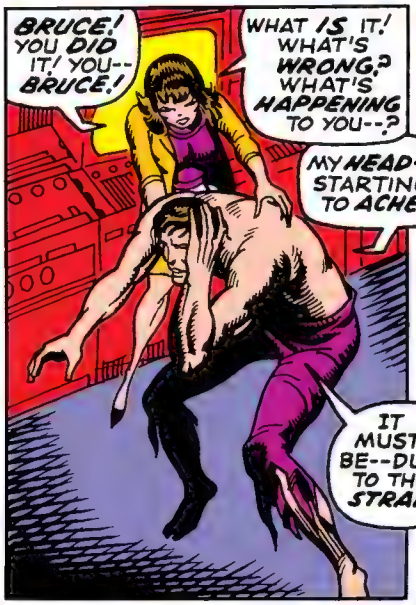

I HIT GROUND HARD ENOUGH TO MAKE VOLCANO ERUPT!
ISLAND IS BLOWING UP!
LEADER'S MACHINE-MAN WON'T EVER FIGHT AGAIN!
NOW-- HULK WILL JUMP TO MAINLAND!
NOTHING WILL KEEP ME FROM LEADER!
AND, SPEAKING OF THAT EVER-ACTIVE EVIL-DOER--
I'VE PRESSED THE BUTTON THE SECOND TIME!
AND SO-- IT BEGINS!
CLAK!
MISSILE AWAY!!
WITHIN MINUTES, THE OTHER POWER BLOC WILL LAUNCH A COUNTER-ATTACK...
SO WE HAD BEST REPAIR TO MY CONCRETE BUNKERS!
I--STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT--IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
NOW--NOT EVEN THE HULK--CAN STOP IT!
HULK CAN DO ANY-THING!
IT'S HIM!
12

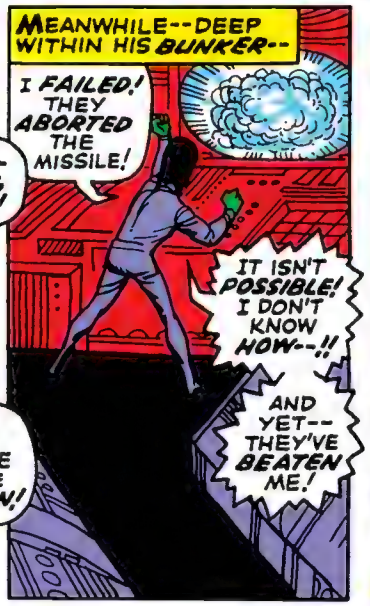
THIS TIME LEADER WON'T GET AWAY!
THIS TIME HULK WILL WIN--FOR-EVER!
NO! FORGET HIM! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THE MISSILE!
IT'S TOO LATE--EVEN FOR HIM!
HE CANT JUMP FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH IT NOW!
HE'S RIGHT! NOBODY--NOTHING CAN CATCH THE MISSILE!
THEN--EVERY-BODY WILL DIE?
AND, IF IT LANDS, IT WILL START THE MOST TERRIBLE WAR IN HISTORY!
YES! UNLESS--
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE ESCAPED MY SUPER-HUMANOID--
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO FACE HIS WRATH AGAIN!
THE RULE OF EARTH WILL SOON BE MINE FOR THE TAKING!
I'LL GO TO THE SHELTER AND LEAVE THEM TO THE BOMBS!
I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO COMPREHEND THIS--BUT YOU'RE ALSO BRUCE BANNER--THE GREATEST ATOMIC SCIENTIST OF ALL!
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE--THAT HE CAN STOP THE MISSILE!
HOW?
ONLY HE COULD KNOW THAT!
BUT PERHAPS --IF YOU CALMED DOWN--
THE CHANGE ALWAYS SEEMED TO HAPPEN--WHEN THE HULK GREW VERY QUIET!
PLEASE TRY TO RELAX!
FORGET THE LEADER! FORGET EVERYTHING--EXCEPT--TAKING A REST!
EVERYTHING IS PEACEFUL NOW! NO ONE WANTS TO HARM YOU! THERE ARE NO MORE ENEMIES WAITING ALL AROUND!
SO CLOSE YOUR EYES --AND REST!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG--SINCE HULK RESTED!
IT FEELS GOOD--TO CLOSE MY EYES!
BUT NOW--THE PAIN IS COMING--!
MY HEAD --IT'S BEGINNING TO THROB!
EVERYTHING SPINNING--ACHING--CHANGING!! BUT NOW--IT'S STARTING TO EASE--!
BETTY! WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE? WHAT'S WRONG, MY DARLING??
13


THERE'S NOT AN INSTANT TO LOSE!
IT'S THE LEADER--HE GOT CONTROL OF THE BASE--FIRED A MISSILE ACROSS THE SEA!
IF IT EVER LANDS--IT WILL MEAN THE START OF AN UNTHINKABLE ATOMIC WAR!!
THE LEADER! MISSILE! AN ATOMIC WAR!
THINK, BRUCE--THINK!! IS THERE ANY WAY TO STOP IT??
HOW--IS IT POSSIBLE??
THERE'S A NEW HUNTER MISSILE--OF MY OWN DESIGN!
IT'S BEEN AWAITING THE FINAL TEST!
BUT, I DON'T KNOW WHERE--??
FOLLOW ME! THE NEW WEAPONS COMPLEX IS IN THE BUILDING NEXT DOOR!
IT CAN CATCH ANYTHING THAT FLIES!
WE STILL HAVE MINUTES BEFORE THE LEADER'S MISSILE LANDS!
THAT'S THE ONE--AND IT'S READY FOR FLIGHT!
IF I CAN JUST COMPLETE THE PROGRAMMING FAST ENOUGH!
YOU MUST! YOU MUST! THE PEACE OF THE WORLD IS AT STAKE!
WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE MOST BRILLIANT NUCLEAR PHYSICIST ON EARTH SETS TO WORK--HIS SKILLED FINGERS MOVING WITH THE SPEED AND SURETY OF A BORN VIRTUOSO--!
PROGRAMMING COMPLETED!
NOW, EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE NEXT FEW SECONDS!
SKLASK!
DON'T FAIL ME NOW!
CLAK!
SHOOM
14

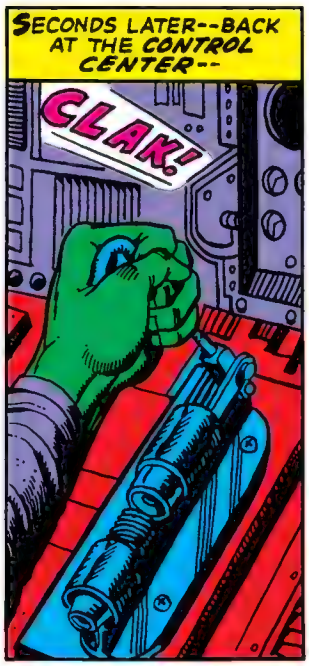

NOW--IF THE FIRST MISSILE DIDN'T HAVE TOO MUCH OF A HEAD START, WE'VE GOT A FIGHTING CHANCE!
THERE'S--NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO?
YOU MIGHT TRY--PRAYING!
"THE BOOSTER SHOULD BE SEPARATING NOW--SPEEDING THE WARHEAD ON ITS WAY!"
"AND FROM HERE ON, THE RADAR SCREEN WILL TELL US WHAT WE HAVE TO KNOW--!"
15

BUH-ROOOOM!


BRUCE! YOU DID IT! YOU--BRUCE!
WHAT IS IT! WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU--?
MY HEAD--STARTING TO ACHE!
IT MUST BE--DUE TO THE STRAIN!


MEANWHILE--DEEP WITHIN HIS BUNKER--
I FAILED! THEY ABORTED THE MISSILE!
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! I DON'T KNOW HOW--!!
AND YET--THEY'VE BEATEN ME!

BUT NO!! THE FINAL ROUND WILL STILL BE MINE!
THERE WAS ONLY ONE HUNTER MISSILE ON THE BASE THAT COULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THAT!
NOW, IF I LAUNCH A SECOND MISSILE--
THEY'LL BE POWERLESS TO STOP IT!

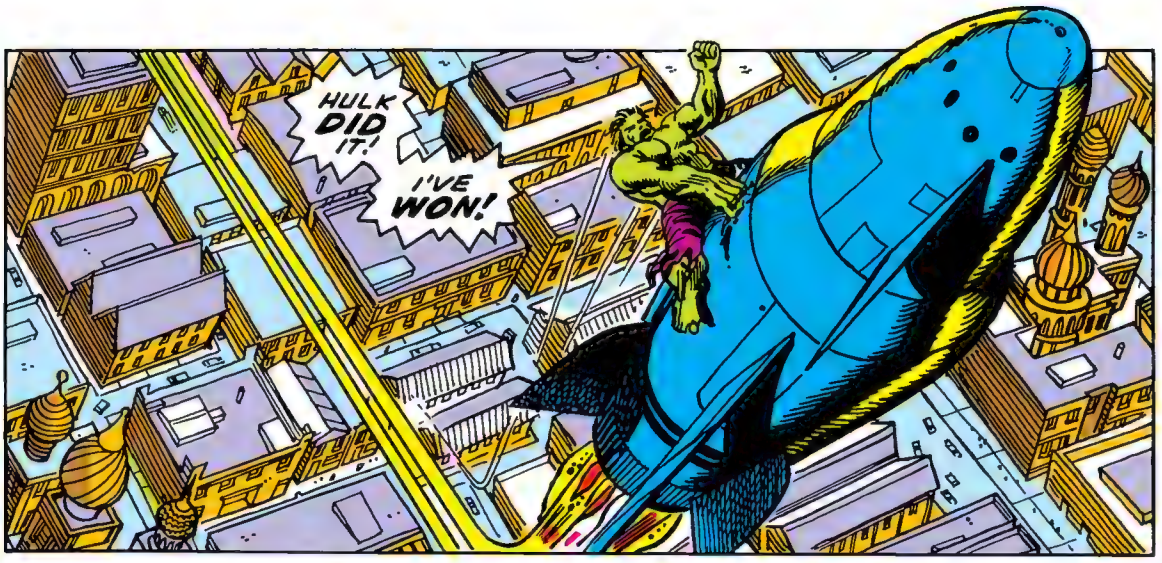

SECONDS LATER--BACK AT THE CONTROL CENTER--
CLAK!

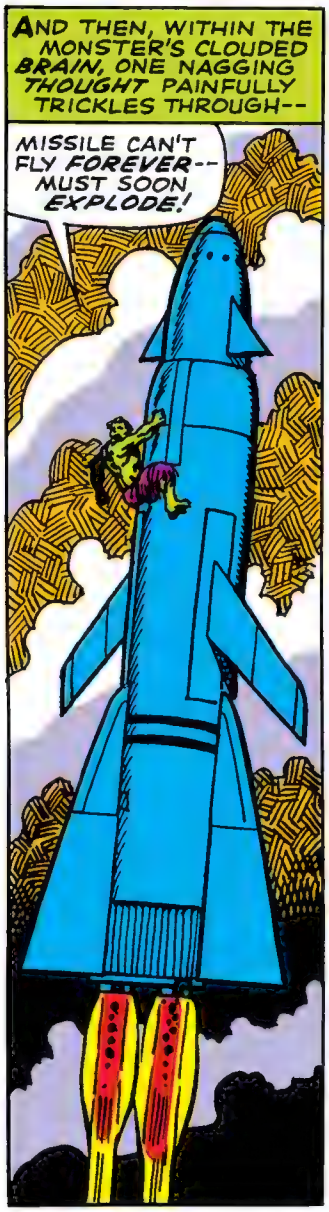
THIS TIME THERE'LL BE--WAIT!
THAT NOISE! LIKE THE THUNDERING CHARGE OF--OF--

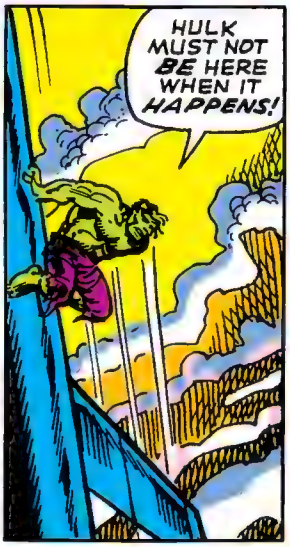
THE HULK!

YOU BRAINLESS GARGOYLE-- ONCE MORE YOU'VE ARRIVED TOO LATE!
I'VE LAUNCHED ANOTHER MISSILE--
AND THIS TIME THERE'S NOTHING ON THE BASE THAT CAN OVER-TAKE IT!
EVEN AS YOU STAND THERE, GLOWERING LIKE SOME POOR PRIMEVAL BEAST--
THE WORLD-- AS WE KNOW IT-- IS DOOMED!!
HULK--WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER HUNTER MISSILE THIS TIME!
IF HE SUCCEEDS-- I'M FINISHED HERE!
THE ROCKET WON'T ATTAIN MAX SPEED FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS--
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN??
IT MEANS-- YOU YOUR-SELF CAN STOP IT!
HOW?? TELL ME-- HOW??
IF YOU CAN LEAP--FAR ENOUGH--FAST ENOUGH--YOU CAN REACH IT!
BUT YOU MUST HURRY-- NOW-- WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
HULK CAN DO ANYTHING!
IF I DO IT--
MAYBE MEN WILL--
--TRUST THE HULK ONCE MORE!!

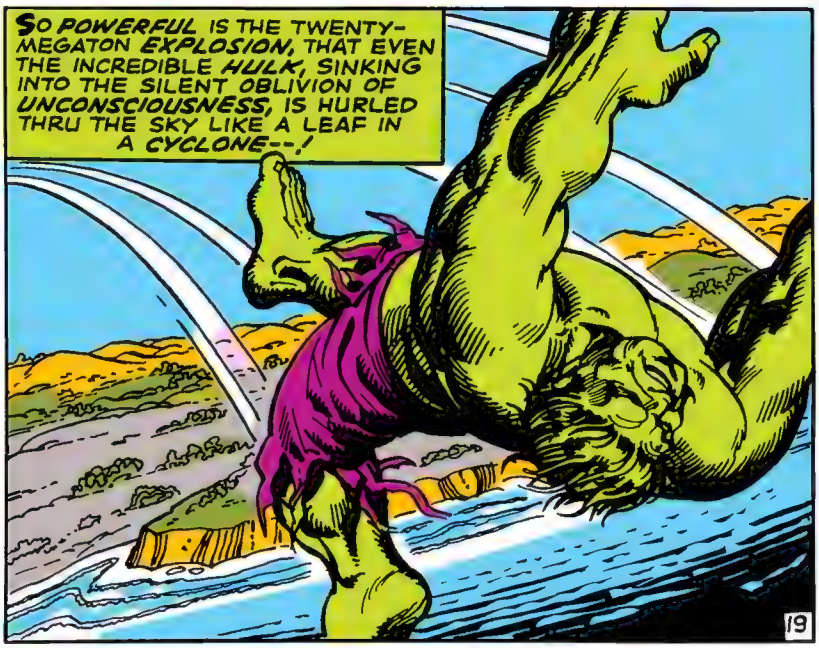
BUT, IF HULK FAILS--
THEN NOTHING WILL MATTER ANY MORE!
THEN, AS THE FATEFUL MISSILE REACHES ITS APOGEE AND STARTS TO PLUMMET TOWARDS THE TARGET--
ROCKET MUST NOT LAND ON CITY BELOW!
HULK MUST MAKE IT STOP FALLING!!
--MUST MAKE IT-- GO UP AGAIN--!!
PULLING, TUGGING, BLINDLY SLASHING AT THE SKEIN OF DEADLY STEEL BENEATH HIM, THE HULK STRUGGLES LIKE A GREAT, GIGANTIC DEMON--
--UNTIL, AT LAST--

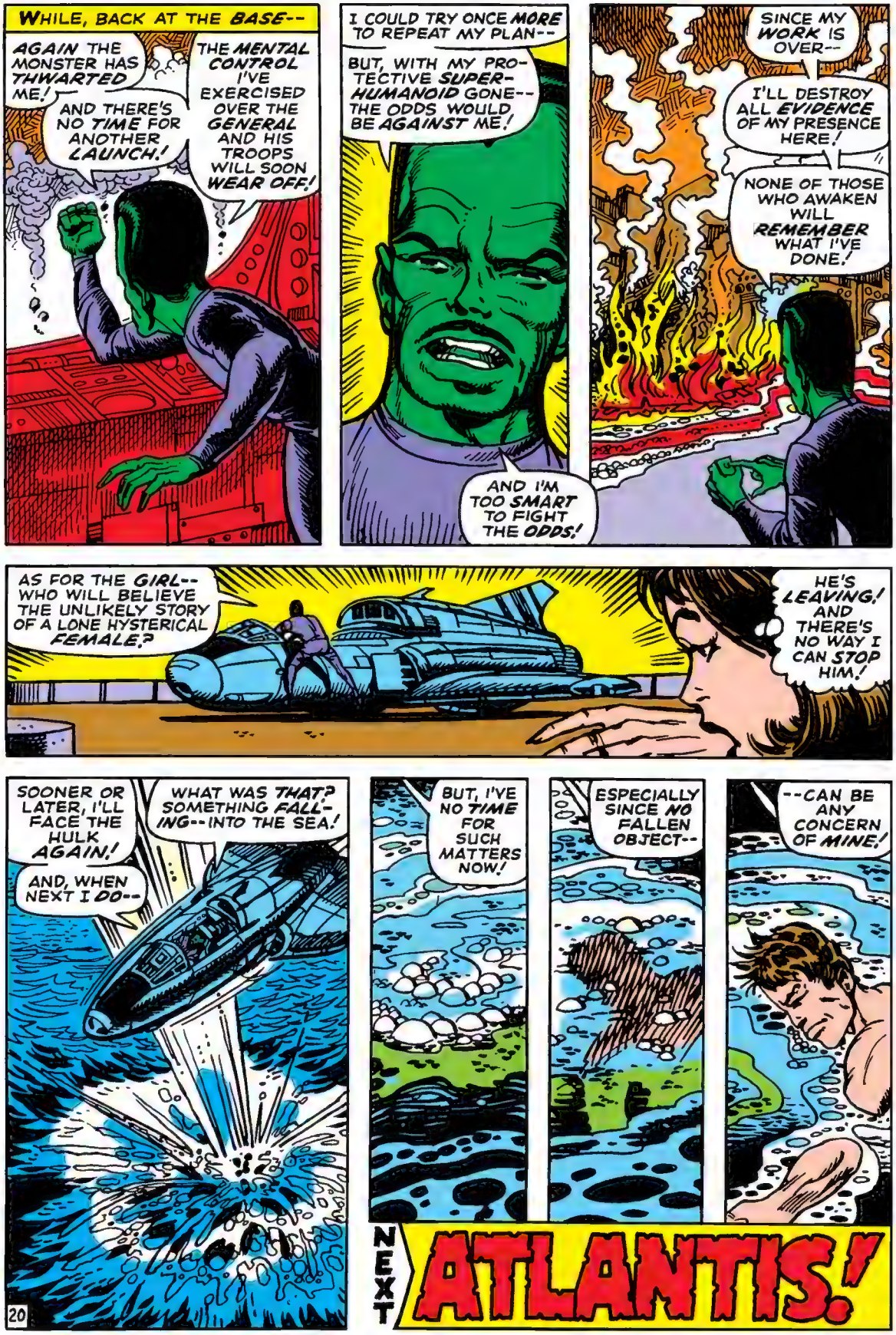

HULK DID IT!
I'VE WON!

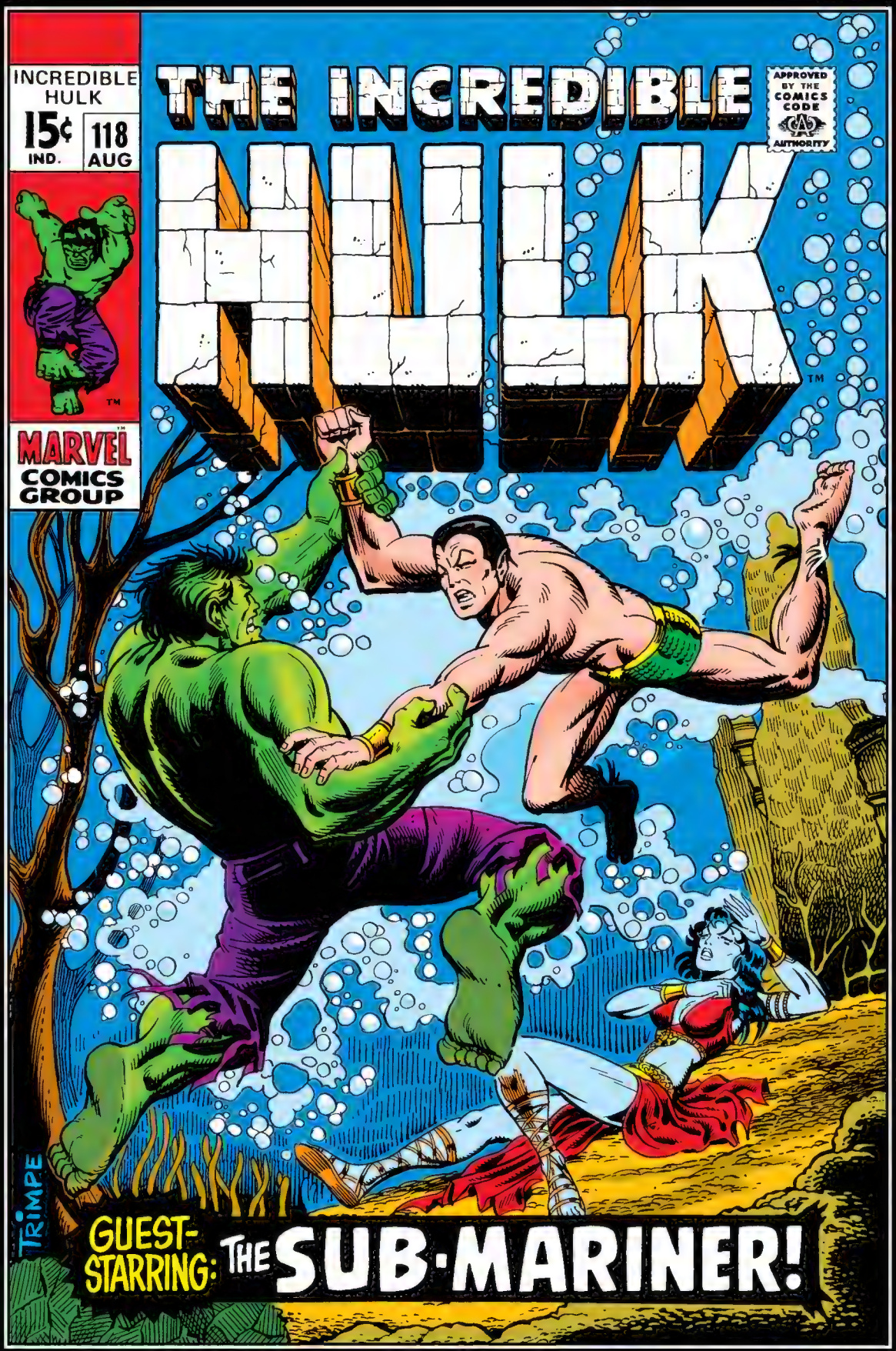

AND THEN, WITHIN THE MONSTER'S CLOUDED BRAIN, ONE NAGGING THOUGHT PAINFULLY TRICKLES THROUGH--
MISSILE CAN'T FLY FOREVER-- MUST SOON, EXPLODE!


HULK MUST NOT BE HERE WHEN IT HAPPENS!

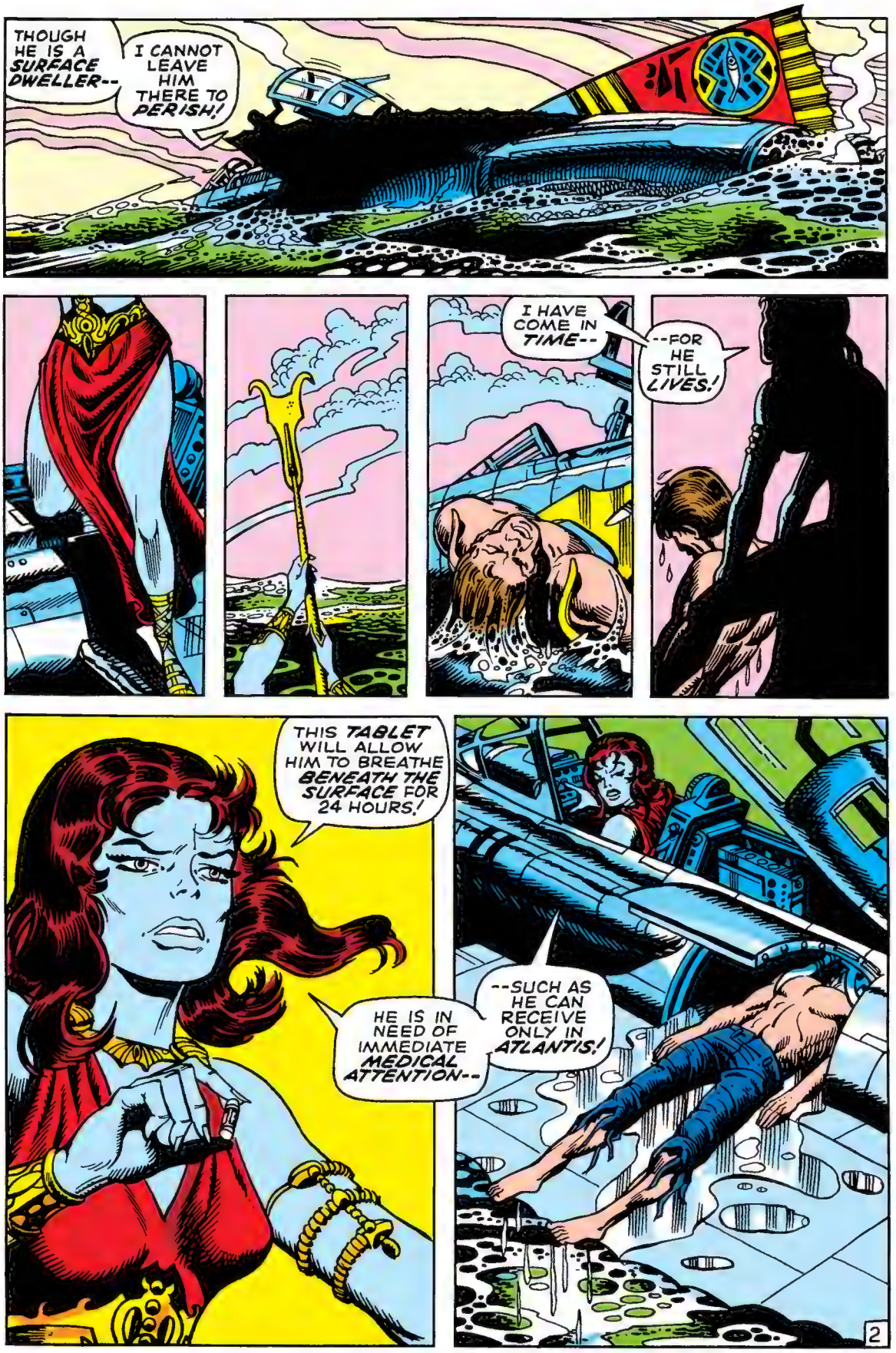
THEN, EXACTLY TWO SECONDS AFTER THE TORTURED TITAN HAS FLUNG HIMSELF FROM THE LETHAL, ATOMIC WARHEAD--

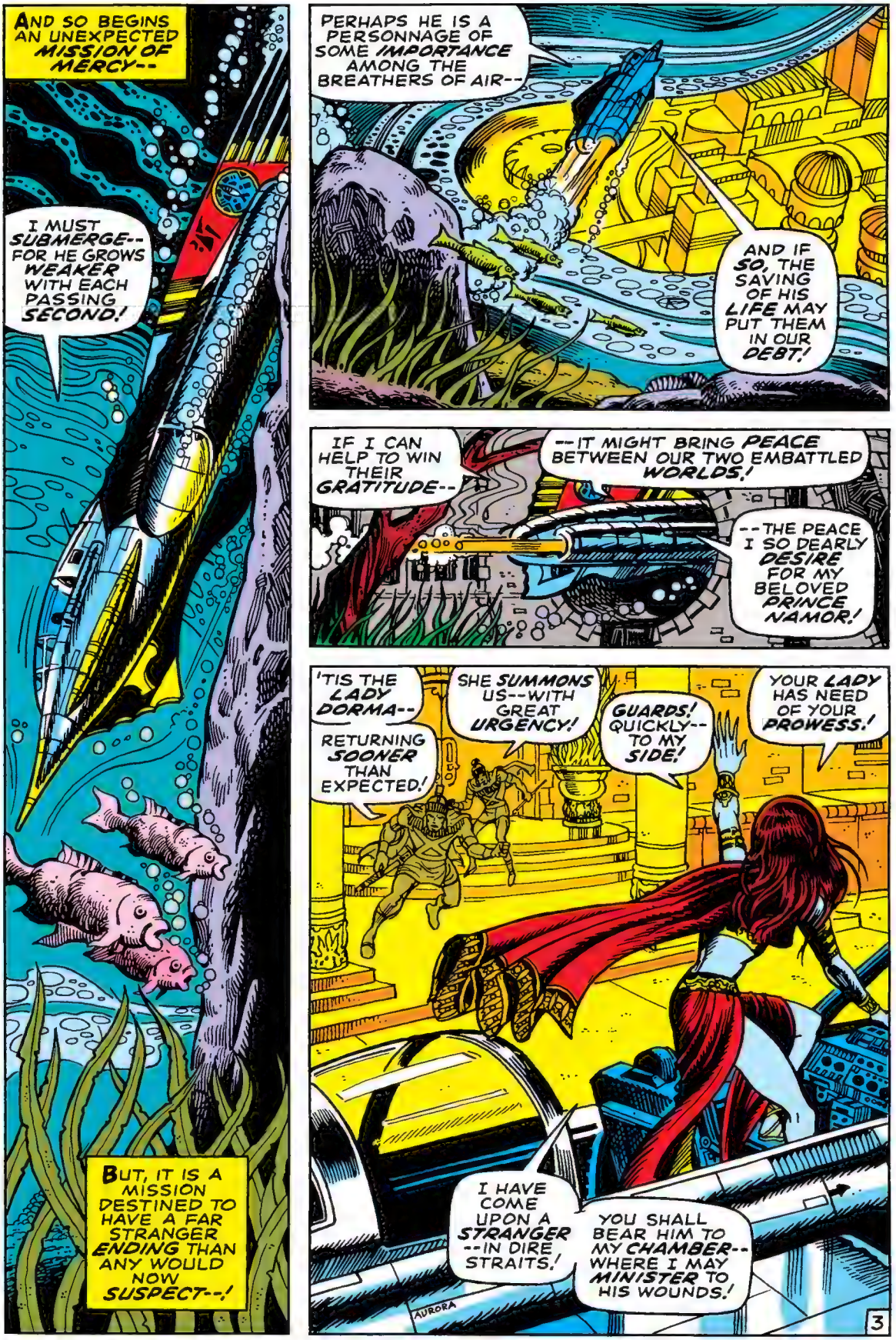

SO POWERFUL IS THE TWENTY-MEGATON EXPLOSION, THAT EVEN THE INCREDIBLE HULK, SINKING INTO THE SILENT OBLIVION OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS, IS HURLED THRU THE SKY LIKE A LEAF IN A CYCLONE--!

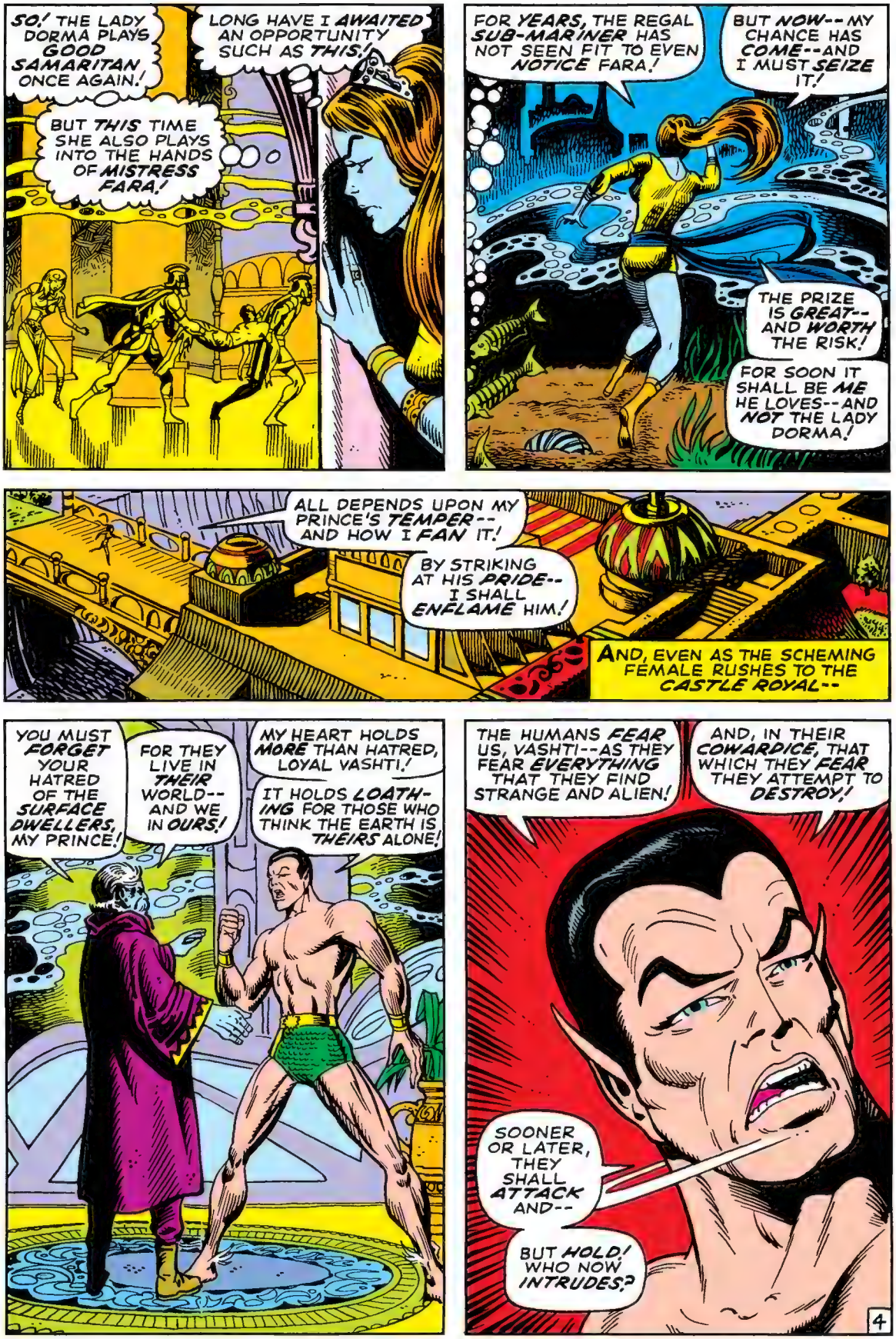

WHILE, BACK AT THE BASE--
AGAIN THE MONSTER HAS THWARTED ME!
AND THERE'S NO TIME FOR ANOTHER LAUNCH!
THE MENTAL CONTROL I'VE EXERCISED OVER THE GENERAL AND HIS TROOPS WILL SOON WEAR OFF!
I COULD TRY ONCE MORE TO REPEAT MY PLAN--
BUT, WITH MY PROTECTIVE SUPER-HUMANOID GONE--THE ODDS WOULD BE AGAINST ME!
AND I'M TOO SMART TO FIGHT THE ODDS!
SINCE MY WORK IS OVER--
I'LL DESTROY ALL EVIDENCE OF MY PRESENCE HERE!
NONE OF THOSE WHO AWAKEN WILL REMEMBER WHAT I'VE DONE!
AS FOR THE GIRL--WHO WILL BELIEVE THE UNLIKELY STORY OF A LONE HYSTERICAL FEMALE?
HE'S LEAVING! AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN STOP HIM!
SOONER OR LATER, I'LL FACE THE HULK AGAIN!
AND, WHEN NEXT I DO--
WHAT WAS THAT? SOMETHING FALLING--INTO THE SEA!
BUT, I'VE NO TIME FOR SUCH MATTERS NOW!
ESPECIALLY SINCE NO FALLEN OBJECT--
--CAN BE ANY CONCERN OF MINE!
NEXT ATLANTIS!
20

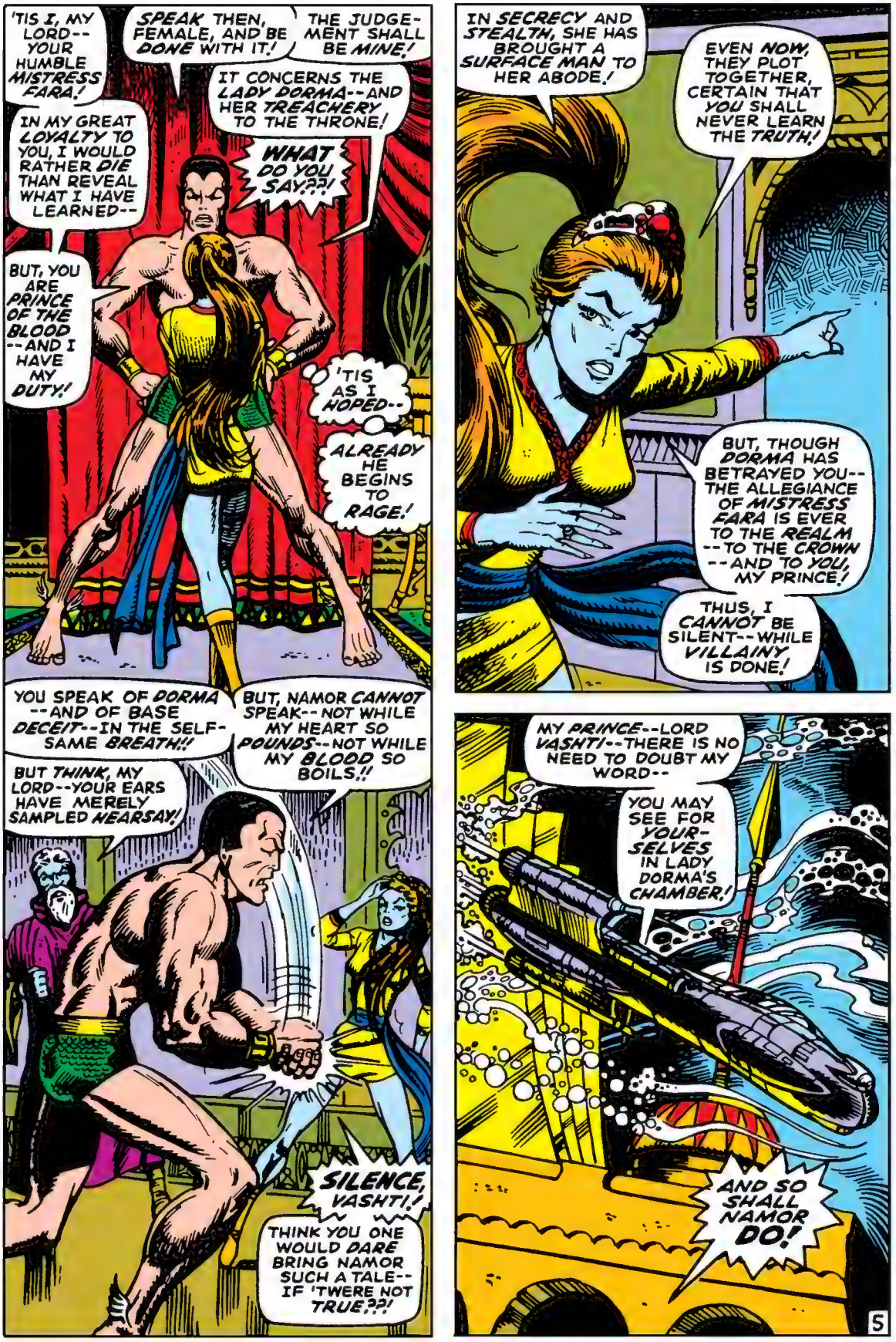

INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢ IND.
118 AUG
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TRIMPE
GUEST-STARRING: THE SUB-MARINER!

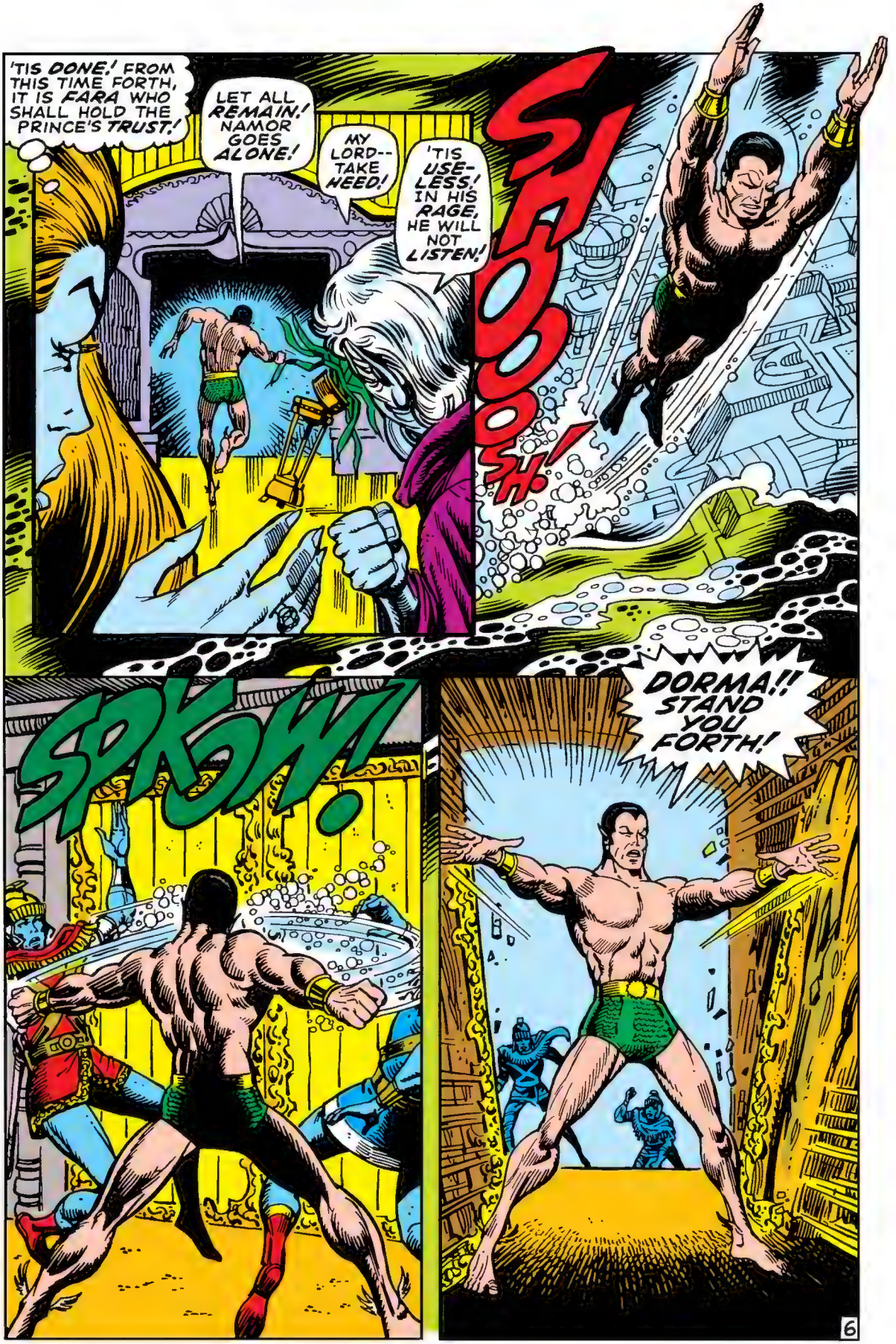
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
"A CLASH OF TITANS"
ALONE, UPON THE SURFACE--
--A FIGURE FLOATS!
BROUGHT TO YOU BY: STAN (THE MAN) LEE and HAPPY HERBIE TRIMPE
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK
LAST ISH WE SAW THE INCREDIBLE HULK SAVE MANKIND FROM THE LEADER'S DEADLY ROCKET ATTACK! BUT, IN SO DOING, HE WAS TRANSFORMED ONCE MORE INTO THE VULNERABLE BRUCE BANNER, AND FLUNG INTO THE SEA, WHERE WE--AND A STRANGE, AMPHIBIAN CRUISER--NOW FIND HIM--


THOUGH HE IS A SURFACE DWELLER--
I CANNOT LEAVE HIM THERE TO PERISH!
I HAVE COME IN TIME--
--FOR HE STILL LIVES!
THIS TABLET WILL ALLOW HIM TO BREATHE BENEATH THE SURFACE FOR 24 HOURS!
HE IS IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION--
--SUCH AS HE CAN RECEIVE ONLY IN ATLANTIS!
2

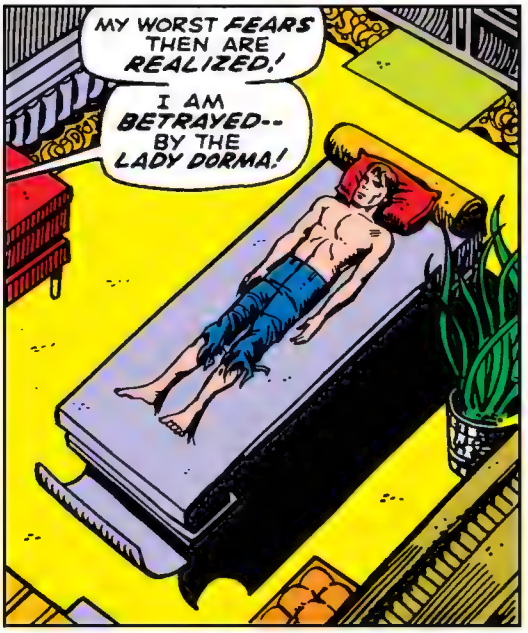

AND SO BEGINS AN UNEXPECTED MISSION OF MERCY--
I MUST SUBMERGE-- FOR HE GROWS WEAKER WITH EACH PASSING SECOND!
BUT, IT IS A MISSION DESTINED TO HAVE A FAR STRANGER ENDING THAN ANY WOULD NOW SUSPECT--!
PERHAPS HE IS A PERSONNAGE OF SOME IMPORTANCE AMONG THE BREATHERS OF AIR--
AND IF SO, THE SAVING OF HIS LIFE MAY PUT THEM IN OUR DEBT!
IF I CAN HELP TO WIN THEIR GRATITUDE--
--IT MIGHT BRING PEACE BETWEEN OUR TWO EMBATTLED WORLDS!
--THE PEACE I SO DEARLY DESIRE FOR MY BELOVED PRINCE NAMOR!
'TIS THE LADY DORMA-- RETURNING SOONER THAN EXPECTED!
SHE SUMMONS US--WITH GREAT URGENCY!
GUARDS! QUICKLY-- TO MY SIDE!
YOUR LADY HAS NEED OF YOUR PROWESS!
I HAVE COME UPON A STRANGER --IN DIRE STRAITS!
YOU SHALL BEAR HIM TO MY CHAMBER-- WHERE I MAY MINISTER TO HIS WOUNDS!
AURORA
3


SO! THE LADY DORMA PLAYS GOOD SAMARITAN ONCE AGAIN!
LONG HAVE I AWAITED AN OPPORTUNITY SUCH AS THIS!
BUT THIS TIME SHE ALSO PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF MISTRESS FARA!
FOR YEARS, THE REGAL SUB-MARINER HAS NOT SEEN FIT TO EVEN NOTICE FARA!
BUT NOW--MY CHANCE HAS COME--AND I MUST SEIZE IT!
THE PRIZE IS GREAT--AND WORTH THE RISK!
FOR SOON IT SHALL BE ME HE LOVES--AND NOT THE LADY DORMA!
ALL DEPENDS UPON MY PRINCE'S TEMPER--AND HOW I FAN IT!
BY STRIKING AT HIS PRIDE--I SHALL ENFLAME HIM!
AND, EVEN AS THE SCHEMING FEMALE RUSHES TO THE CASTLE ROYAL--
YOU MUST FORGET YOUR HATRED OF THE SURFACE DWELLERS, MY PRINCE!
FOR THEY LIVE IN THEIR WORLD--AND WE IN OURS!
MY HEART HOLDS MORE THAN HATRED, LOYAL VASHTI!
IT HOLDS LOATHING FOR THOSE WHO THINK THE EARTH IS THEIRS ALONE!
THE HUMANS FEAR US, VASHTI--AS THEY FEAR EVERYTHING THAT THEY FIND STRANGE AND ALIEN!
AND, IN THEIR COWARDICE, THAT WHICH THEY FEAR THEY ATTEMPT TO DESTROY!
SOONER OR LATER, THEY SHALL ATTACK AND--
BUT HOLD! WHO NOW INTRUDES?
4

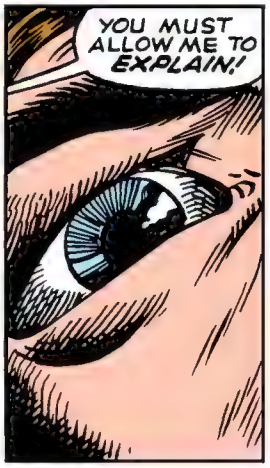

'TIS I, MY LORD--YOUR HUMBLE MISTRESS FARA!
SPEAK THEN, FEMALE, AND BE DONE WITH IT!
THE JUDGEMENT SHALL BE MINE!
IT CONCERNS THE LADY DORMA--AND HER TREACHERY TO THE THRONE!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?!?!
IN MY GREAT LOYALTY TO YOU, I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN REVEAL WHAT I HAVE LEARNED--
BUT, YOU ARE PRINCE OF THE BLOOD--AND I HAVE MY DUTY!
'TIS AS I HOPED--
ALREADY HE BEGINS TO RAGE!
IN SECRECY AND STEALTH, SHE HAS BROUGHT A SURFACE MAN TO HER ABODE!
EVEN NOW, THEY PLOT TOGETHER, CERTAIN THAT YOU SHALL NEVER LEARN THE TRUTH!
BUT, THOUGH DORMA HAS BETRAYED YOU--THE ALLEGIANCE OF MISTRESS FARA IS EVER TO THE REALM--TO THE CROWN--AND TO YOU, MY PRINCE!
THUS, I CANNOT BE SILENT--WHILE VILLAINY IS DONE!
YOU SPEAK OF DORMA--AND OF BASE DECEIT--IN THE SELF-SAME BREATH!!
BUT, NAMOR CANNOT SPEAK--NOT WHILE MY HEART SO POUNDS--NOT WHILE MY BLOOD SO BOILS!!
BUT THINK, MY LORD--YOUR EARS HAVE MERELY SAMPLED HEARSAY!
SILENCE, VASHT!!
THINK YOU ONE WOULD DARE BRING NAMOR SUCH A TALE--IF 'TWERE NOT TRUE?!?!
MY PRINCE--LORD VASHT!--THERE IS NO NEED TO DOUBT MY WORD--
YOU MAY SEE FOR YOURSELVES IN LADY DORMA'S CHAMBER!
AND SO SHALL NAMOR DO!
5

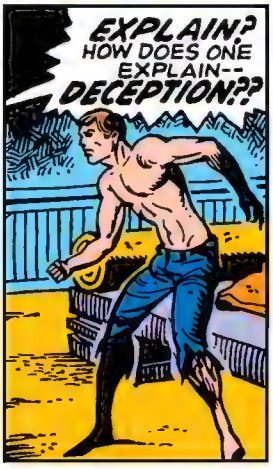

'TIS DONE! FROM THIS TIME FORTH, IT IS FARA WHO SHALL HOLD THE PRINCE'S TRUST!
LET ALL REMAIN! NAMOR GOES ALONE!
MY LORD-- TAKE HEED!
'TIS USE-LESS! IN HIS RAGE, HE WILL NOT LISTEN!
SHOOOSH!
SPASH!
DORMA!! STAND YOU FORTH!
6

MY PRINCE-- WHAT IS NOW AMISS?
NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH UNBRIDLED WRATH UPON YOUR FACE!
THE SURFACEMAN!! WHERE IS HE?
THEN-- YOU KNOW!

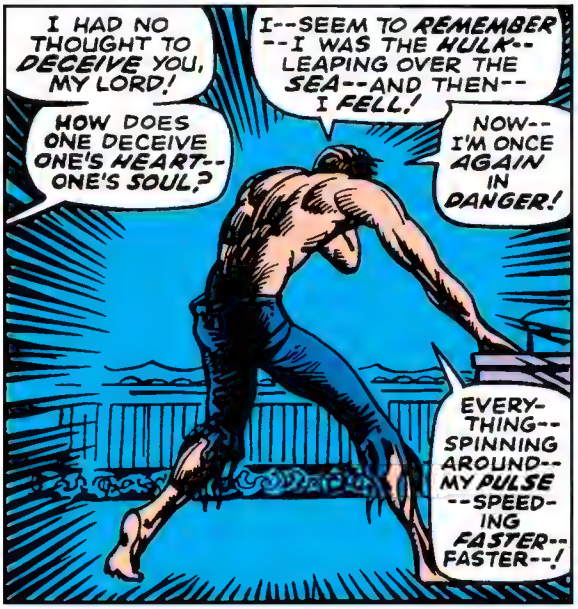

MY WORST FEARS THEN ARE REALIZED!
I AM BETRAYED-- BY THE LADY DORMA!

OH NO, MY PRINCE! IT IS NOT SO!

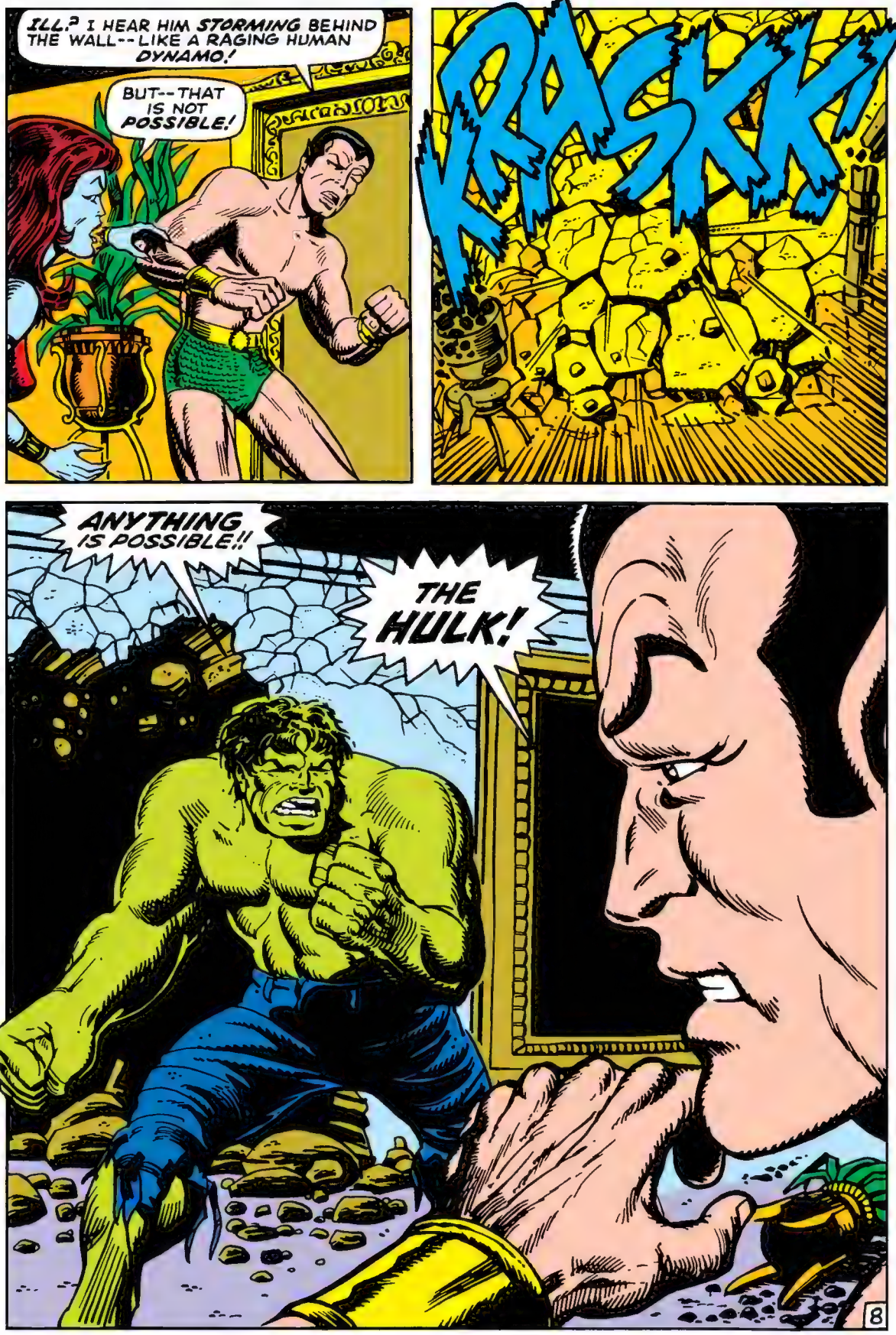

YOU MUST ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN!

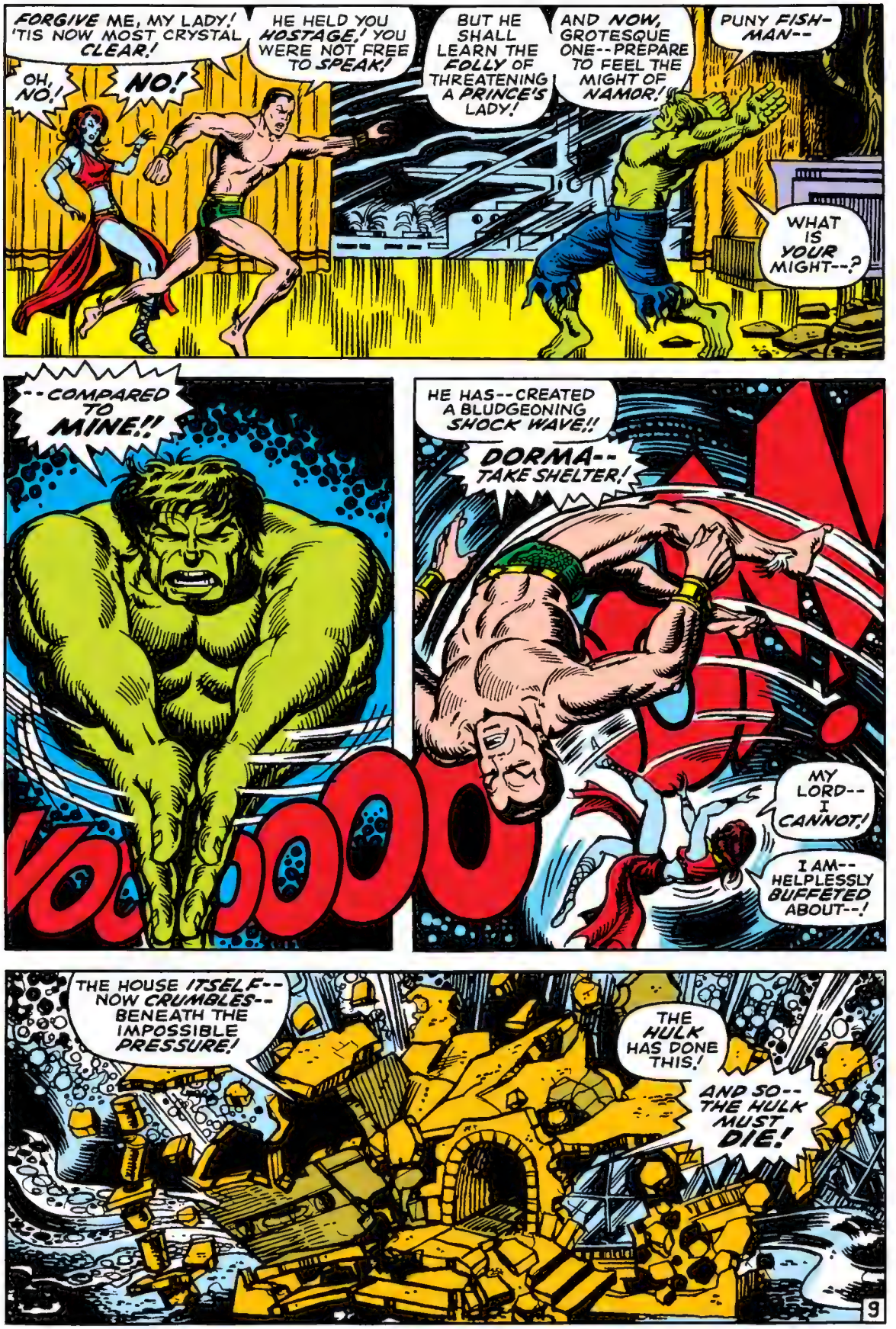

EXPLAIN? HOW DOES ONE EXPLAIN-- DECEPTION??

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? WHERE AM I? WHOSE VOICES ARE THOSE?

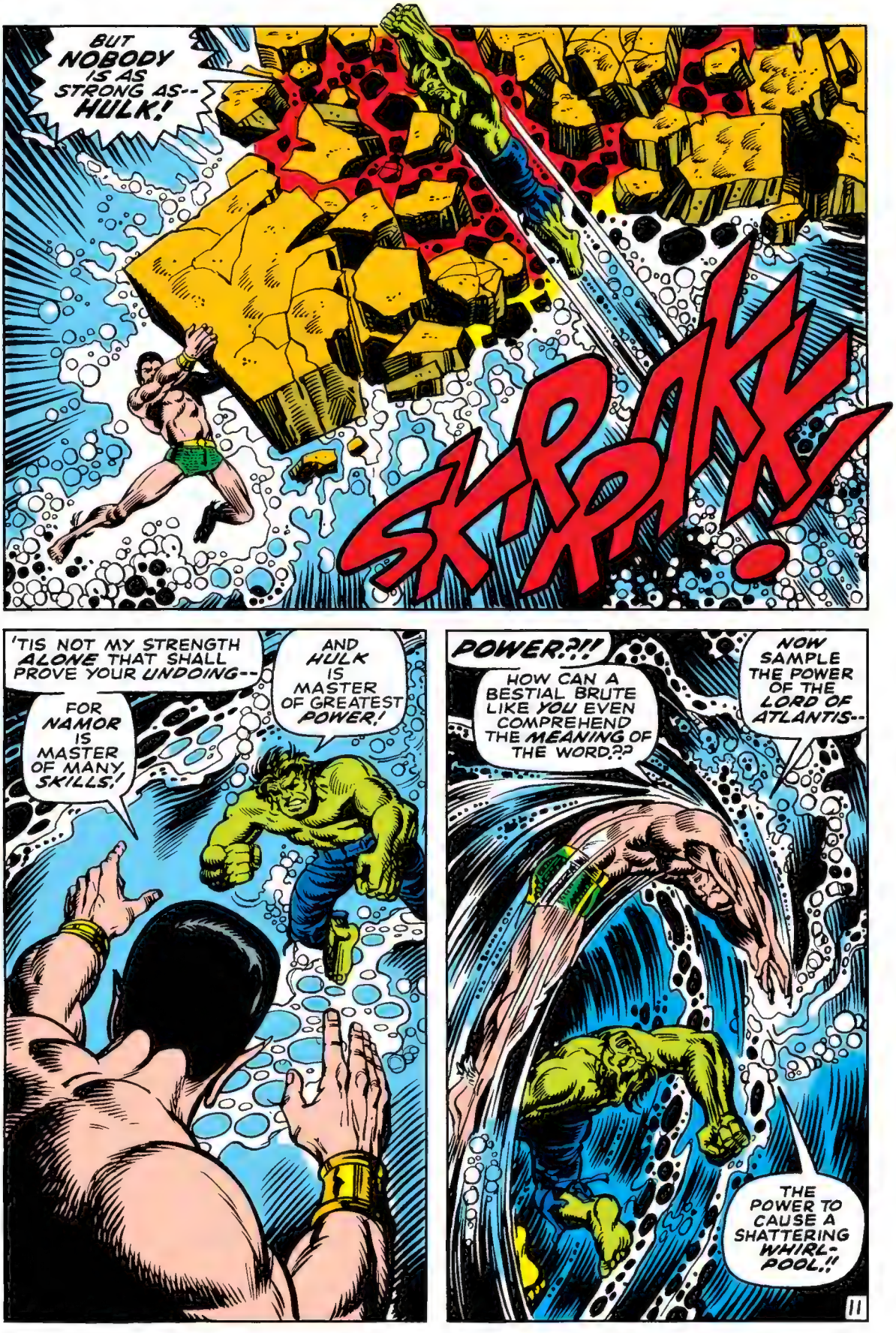

I HAD NO THOUGHT TO DECEIVE YOU, MY LORD!
I--SEEM TO REMEMBER --I WAS THE HULK-- LEAPING OVER THE SEA--AND THEN-- I FELL!
HOW DOES ONE DECEIVE ONE'S HEART-- ONE'S SOUL?
NOW-- I'M ONCE AGAIN IN DANGER!
EVERY-THING-- SPINNING AROUND-- MY PULSE --SPEED-ING FASTER-- FASTER--!

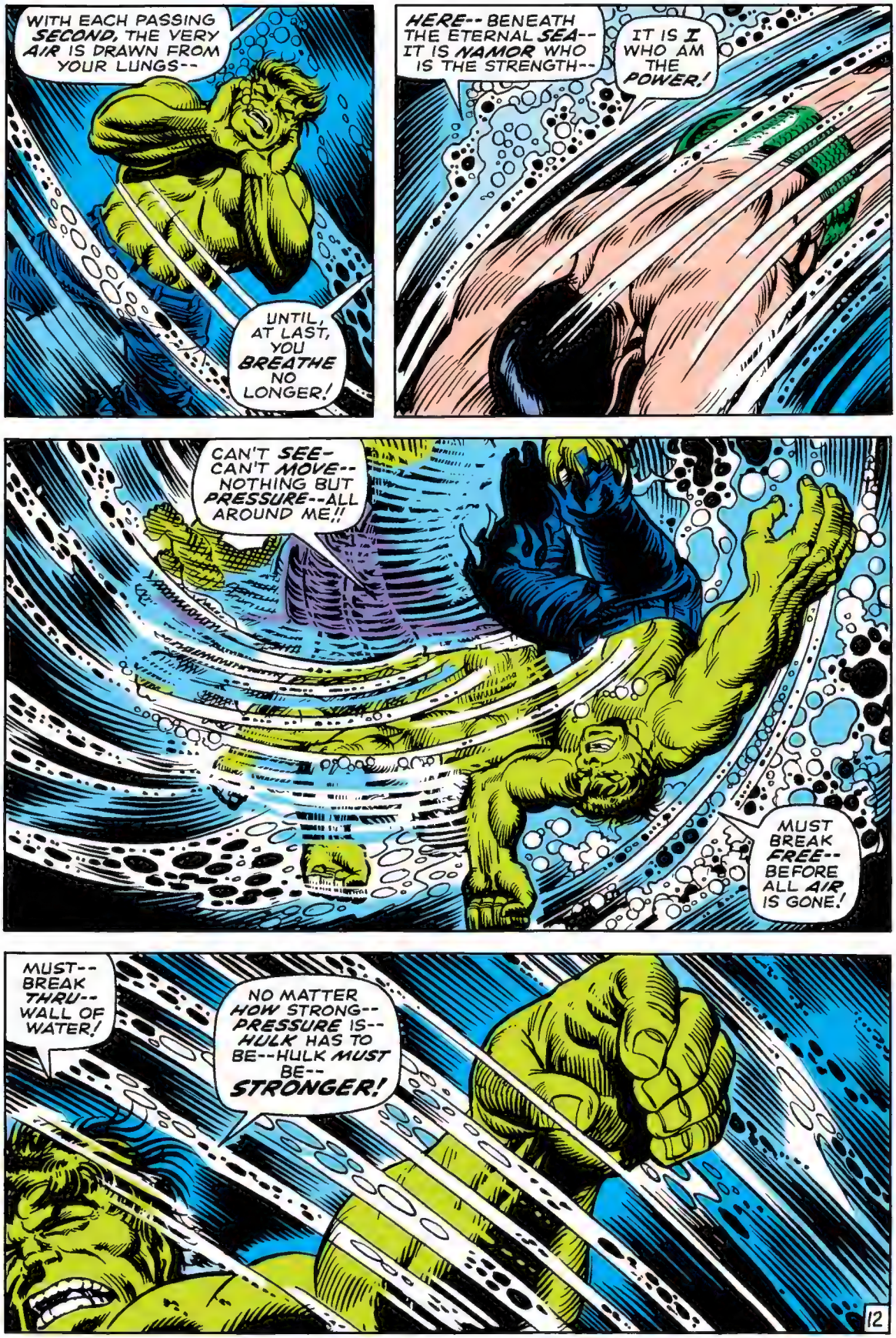
WHILE, OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER DOOR--
WHERE IS HE? I MUST SEE HIM!
ONLY THEN CAN I DELIVER JUDGEMENT ROYAL!
HE IS-- TOO ILL, MY LORD!


ILL.? I HEAR HIM STORMING BEHIND THE WALL--LIKE A RAGING HUMAN DYNAMO!
BUT--THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!
KRASKK!!
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!!
THE HULK!
8


FORGIVE ME, MY LADY! 'TIS NOW MOST CRYSTAL CLEAR!
HE HELD YOU HOSTAGE! YOU WERE NOT FREE TO SPEAK!
BUT HE SHALL LEARN THE FOLLY OF THREATENING A PRINCE'S LADY!
AND NOW, GROTESQUE ONE--PREPARE TO FEEL THE MIGHT OF NAMOR!
PUNY FISH-MAN--
OH, NO!
NO!
WHAT IS YOUR MIGHT--?
--COMPARED TO MINE!!
HE HAS--CREATED A BLUDGEONING SHOCK WAVE!!
DORMA--TAKE SHELTER!
MY LORD--I CANNOT!
I AM--HELPLESSLY BUFFETED ABOUT--!
THE HOUSE ITSELF--NOW CRUMBLES--BENEATH THE IMPOSSIBLE PRESSURE!
THE HULK HAS DONE THIS!
AND SO--THE HULK MUST DIE!

WHERE IS-- THE GIRL?
I DID NOT MEAN TO HARM THE GIRL!
I ONLY FIGHT THOSE WHO ATTACK ME-- THOSE WHO ARE MY ENEMIES!
SHE IS MERELY STUNNED!
'TIS BETTER THIS WAY!
I HAVE NO WISH FOR HER TO WITNESS WHAT MUST SURELY FOLLOW!
SHE WILL REST-- WHILE NAMOR DOES WHAT MUST BE DONE!
A DEADLY MONSTER HAS BEEN LOOSED WITHIN THE REALM--
BUT, HE SHALL STRIKE NO MORE!
IMPERIUS REX!
SO--FISH-MAN TRIES TO SHOW HOW STRONG HE IS--!
10


BUT NOBODY IS AS STRONG AS-- HULK!
SKRAKK!
'TIS NOT MY STRENGTH ALONE THAT SHALL PROVE YOUR UNDOING--
FOR NAMOR IS MASTER OF MANY SKILLS!
AND HULK IS MASTER OF GREATEST POWER!
POWER?!!
HOW CAN A BESTIAL BRUTE LIKE YOU EVEN COMPREHEND THE MEANING OF THE WORD??
NOW SAMPLE THE POWER OF THE LORD OF ATLANTIS--
THE POWER TO CAUSE A SHATTERING WHIRL-POOL!!
11

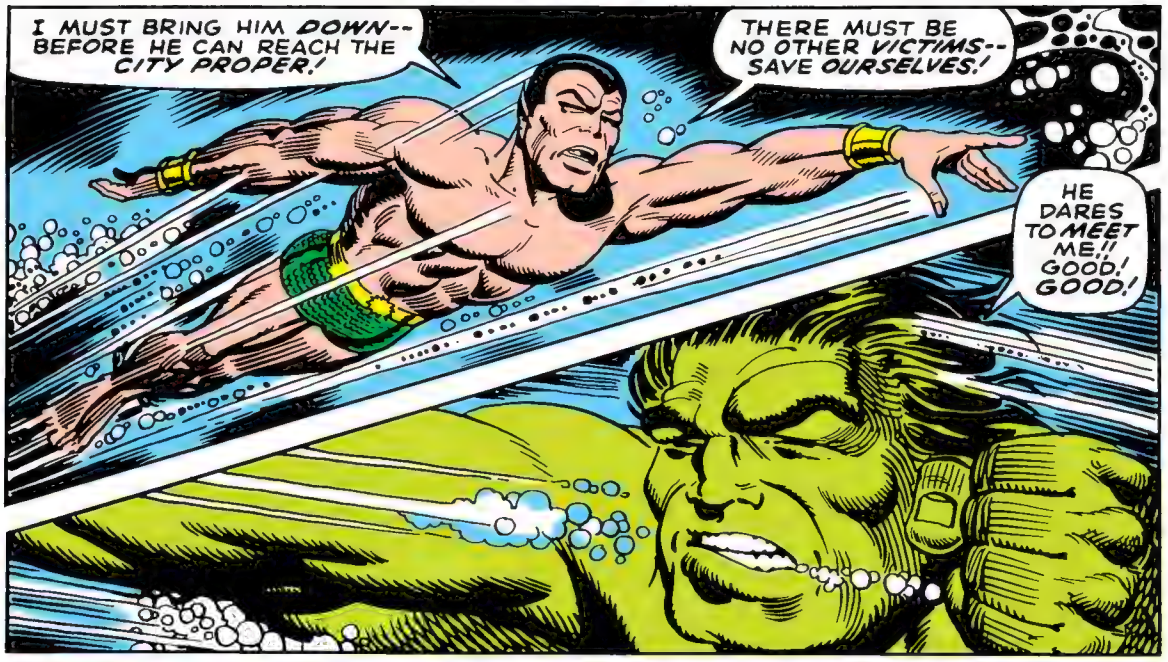

WITH EACH PASSING SECOND, THE VERY AIR IS DRAWN FROM YOUR LUNGS--
UNTIL, AT LAST, YOU BREATHE NO LONGER!
HERE-- BENEATH THE ETERNAL SEA-- IT IS NAMOR WHO IS THE STRENGTH--
IT IS I WHO AM THE POWER!
CAN'T SEE-- CAN'T MOVE-- NOTHING BUT PRESSURE--ALL AROUND ME!!
MUST BREAK FREE-- BEFORE ALL AIR IS GONE!
MUST-- BREAK THRU-- WALL OF WATER!
NO MATTER HOW STRONG-- PRESSURE IS-- HULK HAS TO BE--HULK MUST BE-- STRONGER!

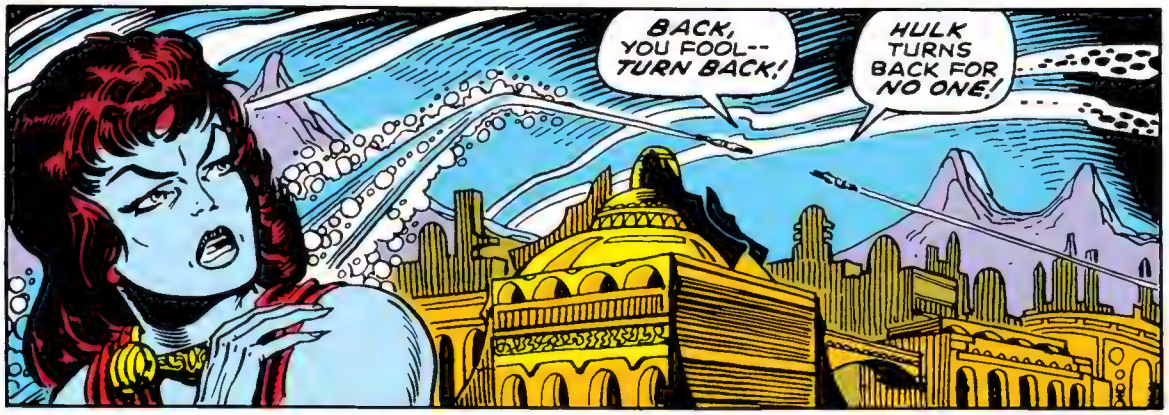
AND SO--AS THE INDESCRIBABLE PRESSURE MOUNTS--AND MOUNTS--
HE KEEPS--SPINNING AROUND--OVER AND OVER--
HE THINKS--THE HULK--CAN'T USE HIS STRENGTH AGAINST--THE PRESSURE--
BUT--I CAN--
I CAN--
THWUP!
NO ONE HAS EVER BROKEN THRU MY WHIRLPOOL TRAP BEFORE!
NO ONE ELSE--IS HULK!
NOW, WHILE THEY'RE LOCKED IN BATTLE--
I CAN MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE SUB-MARINER WILL BE MINE--FOREVER!
WHILE DORMA LIES HELPLESS--UNNOTICED--IT WILL BE SO EASY--!

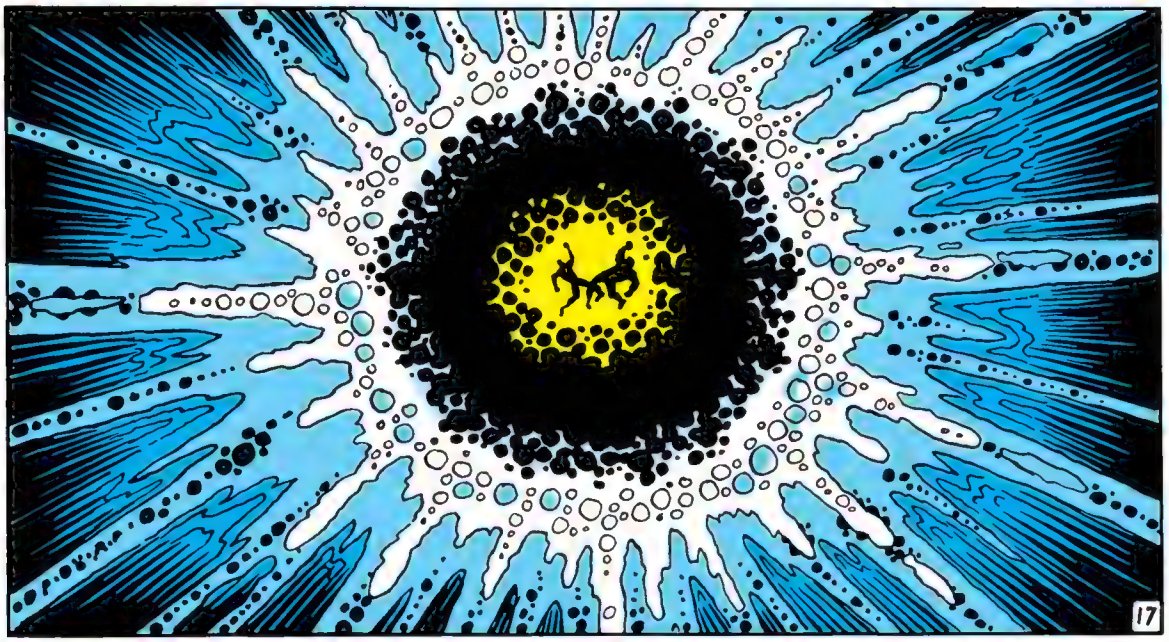
--SO EASY!
BUT, AT THAT INSTANT --THE SHARP-EYED NAMOR LOOKS BELOW --AND SEES--
DORMA!!
YOU WANT HER?? HULK WILL SEND YOU THERE!
BTAM!
THE WALL! IT'S CRUMBLING!
IT'S FALLING-- THIS WAY!!
NO! NOOOO!
14

DORMA!
IF--ANY HARM HAS BEFALLEN HER--!
SHE MUST BE ALIVE!
SHE MUST! SHE MUST!
RZOK!
DORMA!
MY LADY LIVES!
THE DEADLY IMPACT-- WAS TAKEN BY MISTRESS FARA!
YOU DID NOT WISH ME TO DO BATTLE--
PERHAPS 'TWAS YOU WHO WERE THE WISER!
A PRINCE MUST EMPLOY MERCY-- AS WELL AS MIGHT!
BUT, WHILE NAMOR SPEAKS OF MERCY--
--THE EMBITTERED, EMBATTLED HULK, DAZED, CONFUSED, NOT KNOWING WHERE TO TURN, THINKS ONLY OF--ATTACK--
HULK WILL SPRING-- FROM AGAINST WALL--
LEGS WILL PUSH ME--AS FAST AS FISH-MAN!
15

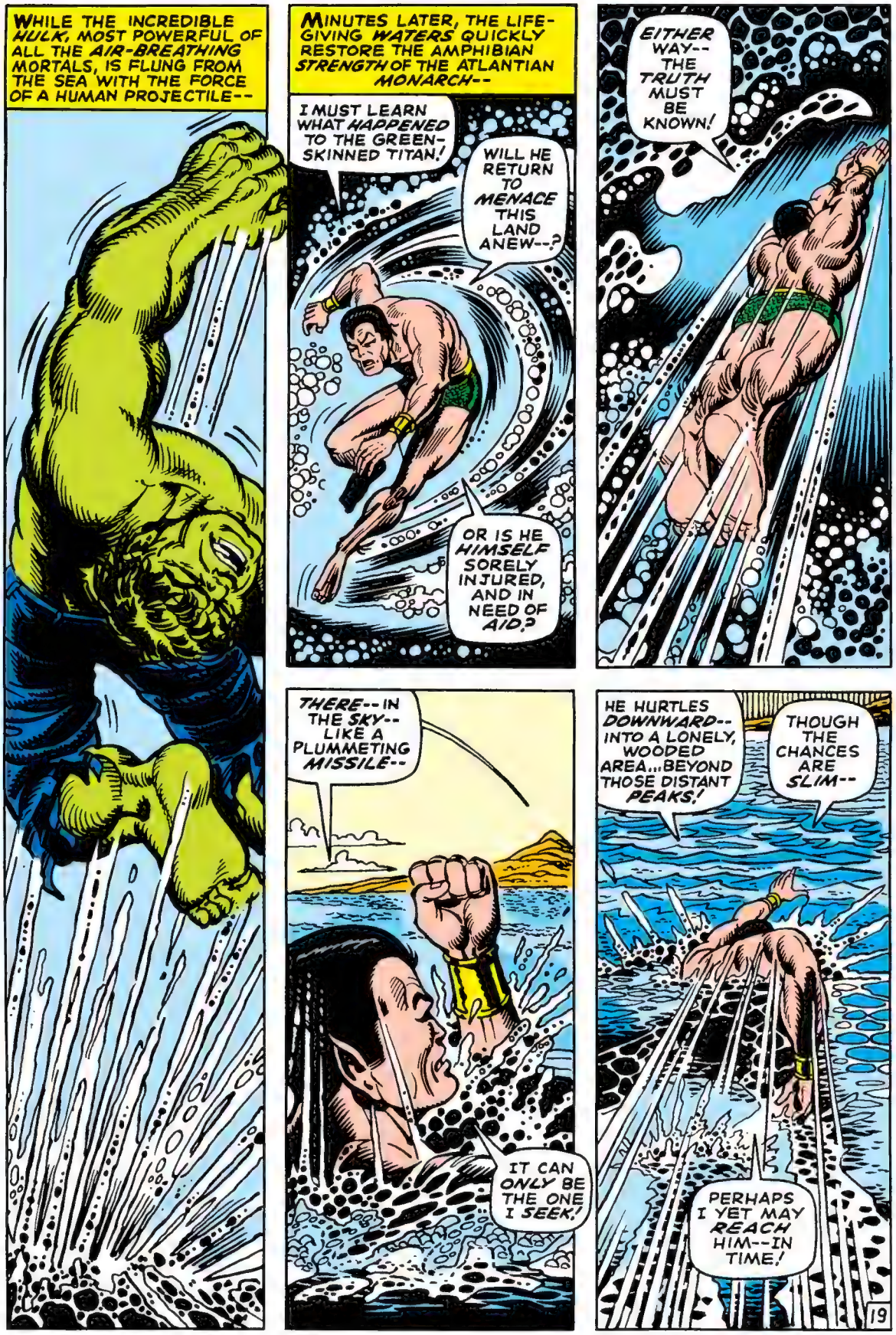
NOW!
DORMA--I SHALL FIND THE GREEN-SKINNED BESTIAL ONE--AND MAKE MY PEACE!
YOU SHALL NOT BE MENACED ANOTHER TIME!
YOU HAVE LIGHTENED THE HEART OF--
MY PRINCE! BEWARE!
THAT SOUND--BEHIND ME--GROWING LOUDER!
A SURGING, SHATTERING BLAST OF FORCE--COMING EVER NEARER!!
NOTHING WILL SAVE SUB-MARINER NOW!
THE HULK! COMING AT ME LIKE A LIVING TORPEDO!
THEN--IT IS TOO LATE TO SPEAK OF PEACE!
MY FIRST TASK IS TO STOP HIM!
16


I MUST BRING HIM DOWN-- BEFORE HE CAN REACH THE CITY PROPER!
THERE MUST BE NO OTHER VICTIMS-- SAVE OURSELVES!
HE DARES TO MEET ME!! GOOD! GOOD!


BACK, YOU FOOL-- TURN BACK!
HULK TURNS BACK FOR NO ONE!

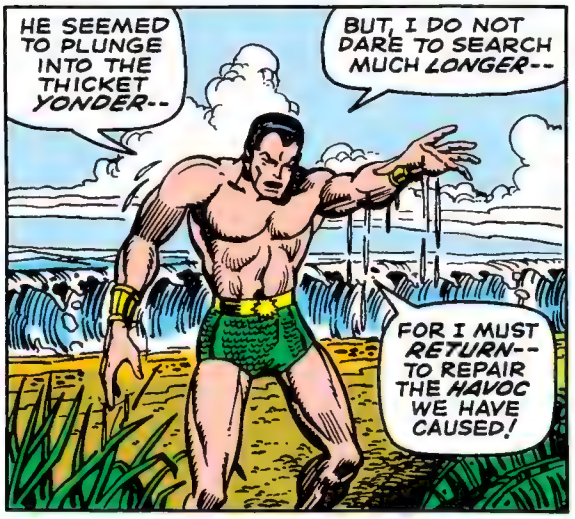


INSTANTANEOUSLY, ALL OF ATLANTIS QUIVERS AND SHAKES, AS THOUGH RACKED TO THE CORE BY A MONSTROUS EARTHQUAKE--
WHILE, FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES AROUND, THE MIGHTIEST OF VESSELS ARE BUFFETED AND BRUISED BY THE SUDDEN FURY OF THE TEMPEST-TOSSED SEA--
--AS GIGANTIC TIDAL WAVES THREATEN THE COASTLINES OF AN ENTIRE CONTINENT --UNTIL, AT LAST, THE FANTASTIC SHOCK SUBSIDES--
BUT, THE STAGGERING IMPACT UPON THE TWO LIVING BEINGS WHO HAVE CAUSED THE NEAR-CATACLYSM-- STILL REMAINS TO BE SEEN--
--AS THE MIGHTIEST OF ALL UNDER-SEA ENTITIES IS HURLED FOR COUNTLESS FATHOMS ACROSS THE FABLED REALM--
18


WHILE THE INCREDIBLE HULK, MOST POWERFUL OF ALL THE AIR-BREATHING MORTALS, IS FLUNG FROM THE SEA WITH THE FORCE OF A HUMAN PROJECTILE--
MINUTES LATER, THE LIFE-GIVING WATERS QUICKLY RESTORE THE AMPHIBIAN STRENGTH OF THE ATLANTIAN MONARCH--
I MUST LEARN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GREEN-SKINNED TITAN!
WILL HE RETURN TO MENACE THIS LAND ANEW--?
OR IS HE HIMSELF SORELY INJURED, AND IN NEED OF AID?
EITHER WAY-- THE TRUTH MUST BE KNOWN!
THERE--IN THE SKY-- LIKE A PLUMMETING MISSILE--
IT CAN ONLY BE THE ONE I SEEK!
HE HURTLES DOWNWARD-- INTO A LONELY, WOODED AREA...BEYOND THOSE DISTANT PEAKS!
THOUGH THE CHANCES ARE SLIM--
PERHAPS I YET MAY REACH HIM--IN TIME!

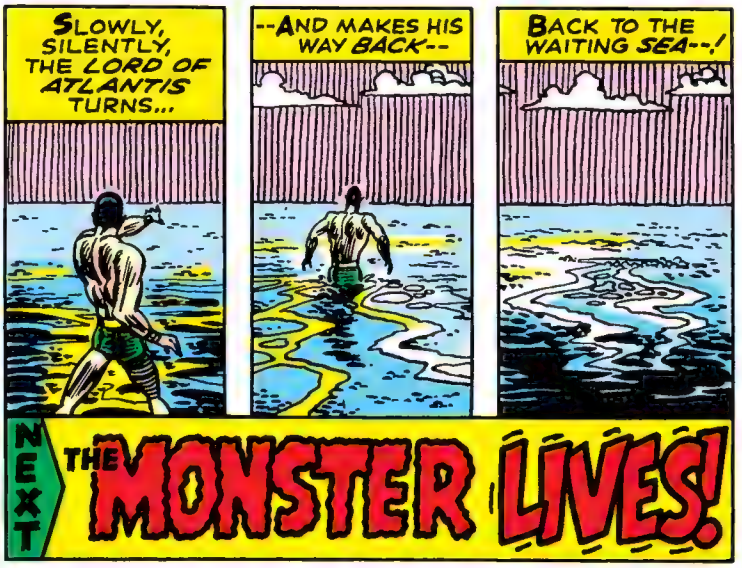
BUT, THE CHANCES ARE EVEN SLIMMER THAN THE SPEEDING SUB-MARINER CAN KNOW--

THROP!


HE SEEMED TO PLUNGE INTO THE THICKET YONDER--
BUT, I DO NOT DARE TO SEARCH MUCH LONGER--
FOR I MUST RETURN-- TO REPAIR THE HAVOC WE HAVE CAUSED!

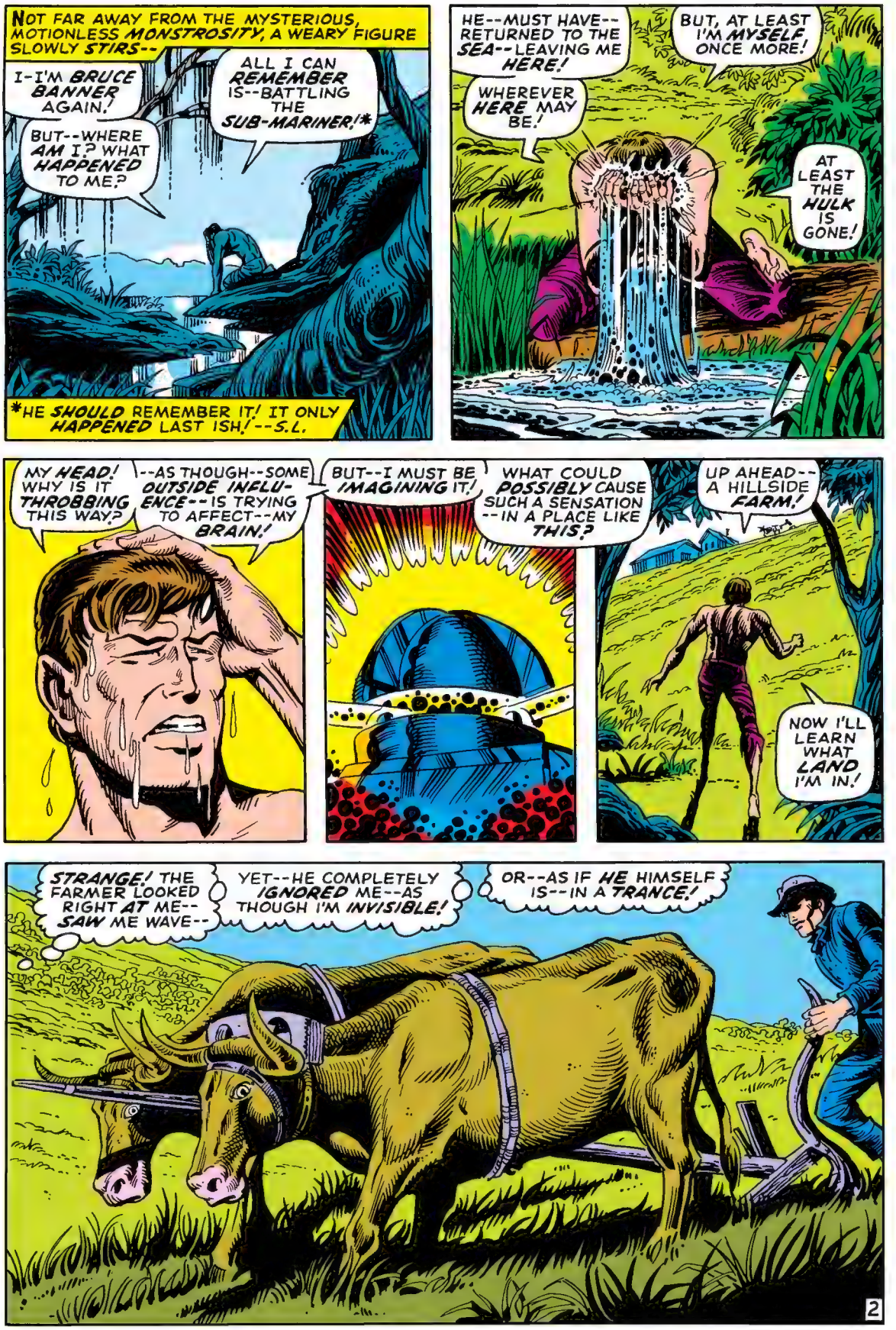
BUT, WAIT--
WHAT WIZARDRY IS THIS?!!
I HAVE SOUGHT A MONSTER--

--AND HAVE FOUND-- A MAN!

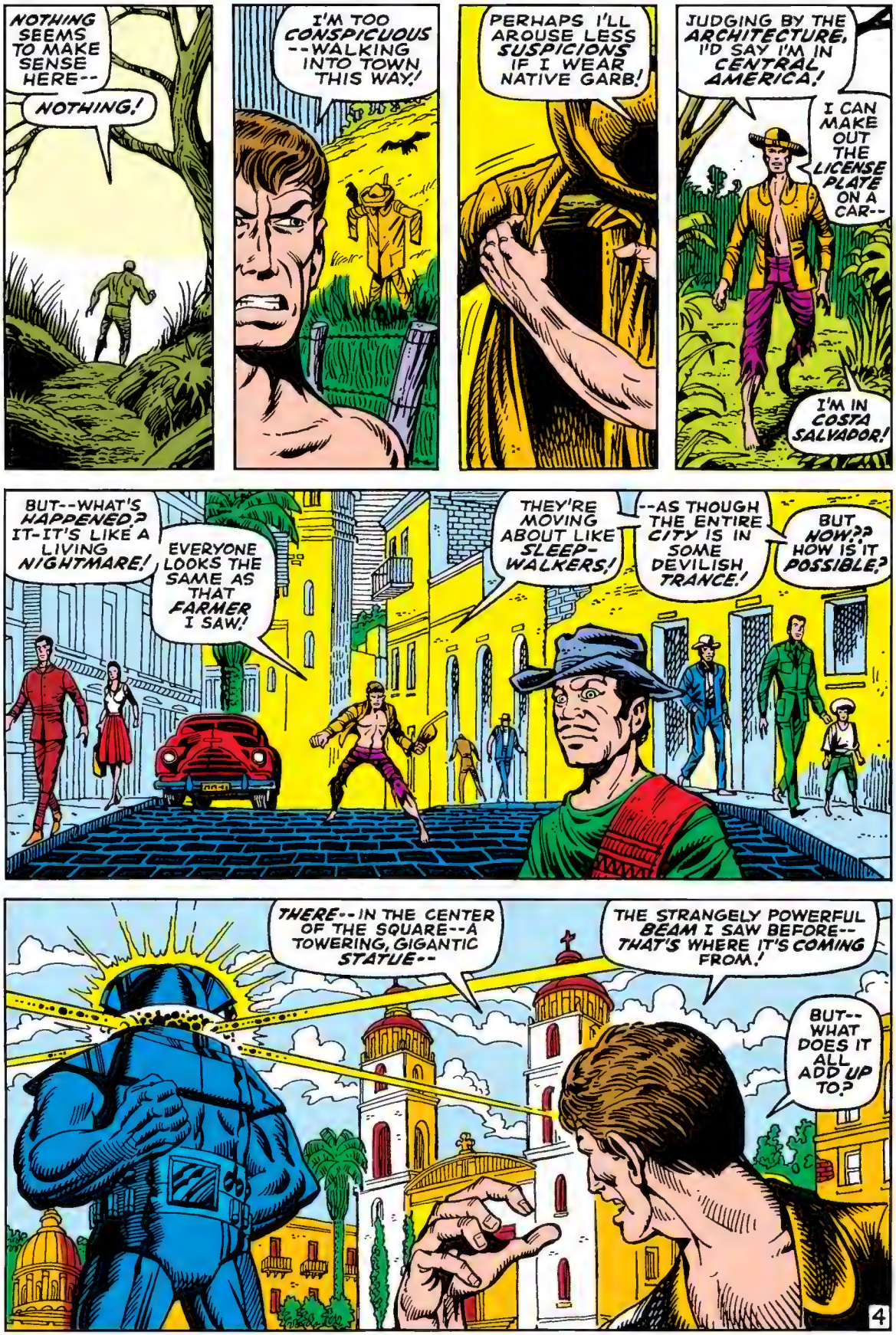

SLOWLY, SILENTLY, THE LORD OF ATLANTIS TURNS...
--AND MAKES HIS WAY BACK--
BACK TO THE WAITING SEA--!
NEXT
THE MONSTER LIVES!

INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢ IND.
119 SEPT
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
AT THE MERCY OF...
MAXIMUS THE MAD!
TRIMPE

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
AT THE MERCY OF-- MAXIMUS THE MAD!
FEATURING: THE INCOMPARABLY EVIL INHUMANS!
IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE OF COSTA SALVADOR, A GIGANTIC STATUE STANDS --AND THE SHADOW THAT IT CASTS SOON MAY COVER ALL MANKIND WITHIN ITS PALL OF FEAR--!
STORY AND ART: SMILIN' STAN LEE and HAPPY HERBY TRIMPE
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK


NOT FAR AWAY FROM THE MYSTERIOUS, MOTIONLESS MONSTROSITY, A WEARY FIGURE SLOWLY STIRS--
I--I'M BRUCE BANNER AGAIN!
BUT--WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS--BATTLING THE SUB-MARINER!*
*HE SHOULD REMEMBER IT! IT ONLY HAPPENED LAST ISH!--S.L.
HE--MUST HAVE--RETURNED TO THE SEA--LEAVING ME HERE!
WHEREVER HERE MAY BE!
BUT, AT LEAST I'M MYSELF ONCE MORE!
AT LEAST THE HULK IS GONE!
MY HEAD! WHY IS IT THROBBING THIS WAY?
--AS THOUGH--SOME OUTSIDE INFLUENCE--IS TRYING TO AFFECT--MY BRAIN!
BUT--I MUST BE IMAGINING IT!
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY CAUSE SUCH A SENSATION --IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
UP AHEAD--A HILLSIDE FARM!
NOW I'LL LEARN WHAT LAND I'M IN!
STRANGE! THE FARMER LOOKED RIGHT AT ME--SAW ME WAVE--
YET--HE COMPLETELY IGNORED ME--AS THOUGH I'M INVISIBLE!
OR--AS IF HE HIMSELF IS--IN A TRANCE!
2

HEY, THERE! WAIT A MINUTE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
MAYBE HE'S DEAF! MAYBE HE JUST DOESN'T HEAR ME!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MAN?
HIS EYES! THERE'S NO LIFE IN THEM--NO EXPRESSION!
HE'S TURNING FROM ME--BACK TO HIS PLOW!
IT'S--AS THOUGH I NEVER SPOKE TO HIM--AS THOUGH I DON'T EXIST!
WHATEVER I NEED TO KNOW--I WON'T GET IT FROM HIM!
I'VE GOT TO LOOK ELSE-WHERE!
THE THROBBING IN MY BRAIN--GETTING WORSE--GETTING STRONGER!
WHAT--DOES IT MEAN? WHAT HAVE I STUMBLED INTO?
IN THE VALLEY BELOW ME--A TOWN!
NOW I'LL LEARN THE ANSWER!
BUT--WHAT'S THAT STRANGE MULTIPLE BEACON?
IT'S NOT FOR AIRCRAFT--IT'S POINTING DOWNWARD--OVER THE LAND!
3


NOTHING SEEMS TO MAKE SENSE HERE--
NOTHING!
I'M TOO CONSPICUOUS --WALKING INTO TOWN THIS WAY!
PERHAPS I'LL AROUSE LESS SUSPICIONS IF I WEAR NATIVE GARB!
JUDGING BY THE ARCHITECTURE, I'D SAY I'M IN CENTRAL AMERICA!
I CAN MAKE OUT THE LICENSE PLATE ON A CAR--
I'M IN COSTA SALVADOR!
BUT--WHAT'S HAPPENED? IT-IT'S LIKE A LIVING NIGHTMARE!
EVERYONE LOOKS THE SAME AS THAT FARMER I SAW!
THEY'RE MOVING ABOUT LIKE SLEEP-WALKERS!
--AS THOUGH THE ENTIRE CITY IS IN SOME DEVILISH TRANCE!
BUT HOW?? HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?
THERE--IN THE CENTER OF THE SQUARE--A TOWERING, GIGANTIC STATUE--
THE STRANGELY POWERFUL BEAM I SAW BEFORE-- THAT'S WHERE IT'S COMING FROM!
BUT-- WHAT DOES IT ALL ADD UP TO?
4

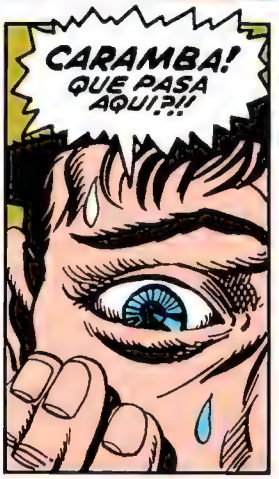
THE THROBBING IN MY HEAD--IT'S WORSE THAN EVER NOW!
NEVER--FELT THIS WAY--BEFORE!
IT'S MAKING IT HARDER FOR ME--TO THINK!
DO NOT BE DISMAYED, SENOR! SOON THE PAIN WILL PASS!
NUH? WHO SAID THAT?
WHAT--DO YOU KNOW--ABOUT THE PAIN?
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT IT, SENOR! ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF--
THE GREAT ONE?
I AM A SERVANT OF THE GREAT ONE!
SI! IT IS HE WHO BUILT THE STATUE! IT IS HE WHO SOON SHALL RULE THIS LAND!
HIS IS THE POWER TO MAKE ALL OTHERS NO MORE THAN HELPLESS SLAVES!
I AM SPARED THE EFFECTS OF THE MIND-DESTROYING RAY--BECAUSE I SERVE HIM!
IT IS I WHO TEND THE MYSTIC STATUE IN THE SQUARE!
CAN'T THINK! MY BRAIN--IT'S ON FIRE!
THE GREAT ONE--WHO IS HE--WHERE IS HE?
IT WILL DO NO HARM TO TELL, SEÑOR!
HE DWELLS WITH--THE OTHERS--IN YONDER CASTLE UPON THE HILLTOP!
SOON--FROM THAT VERY PALACE--HE WILL RULE THE WORLD!
DO NOT TRY TO RESIST THE PRESSURE IN YOUR HEAD!
THE SOONER YOU FALL UNDER ITS SPELL--THE SOONER THE PAIN WILL DISAPPEAR!
THEN, YOU WILL BE LIKE ALL THE REST--
A SUBJECT OF--THE GREAT ONE!
5

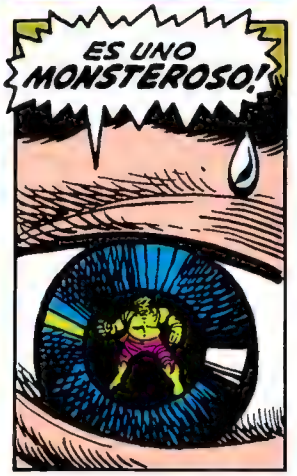
RESIST.? OF COURSE I'LL RESIST!
NO ONE WILL ROB ME OF MY WILL! NO ONE! NO ONE!
YOU STRUGGLE IN VAIN, SENOR!
YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN THE REST!

NO DIFFERENT? YOU SAY I AM--NO DIFFERENT?!!
THEN WATCH!! WATCH--AND SEE HOW DIFFERENT A MAN CAN BE!

YOU MUST BE MAD, SENOR!

HAVE I NOT TOLD YOU THAT-- THAT--

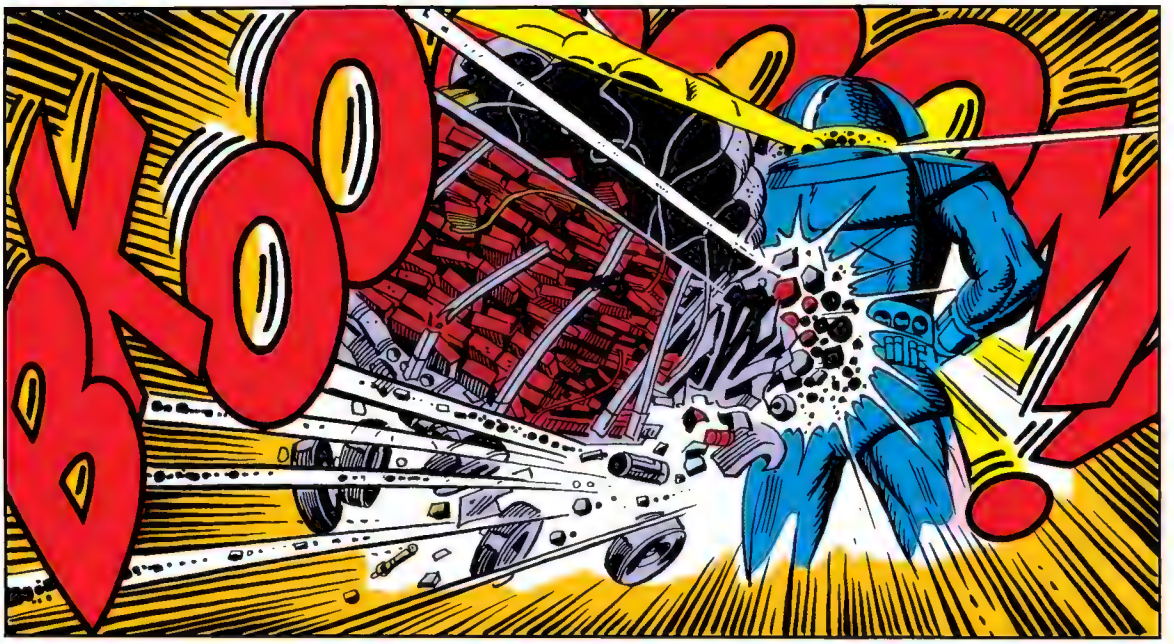

CARAMBA! QUE PASA AQUI?!!

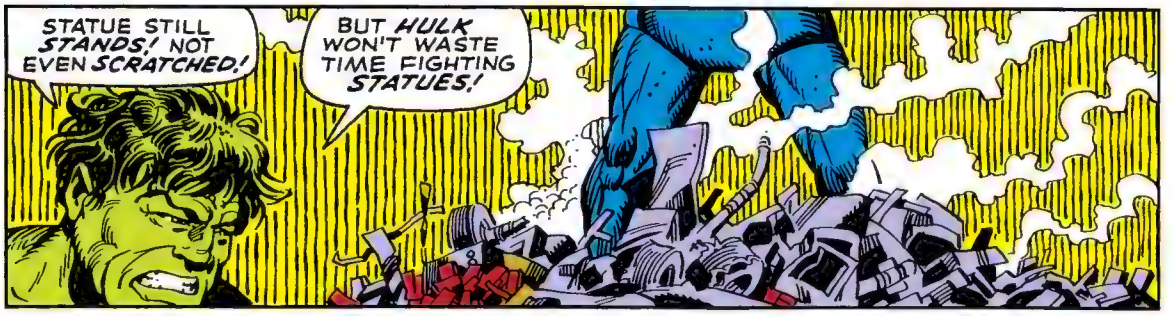

ES UNO MONSTEROSO!

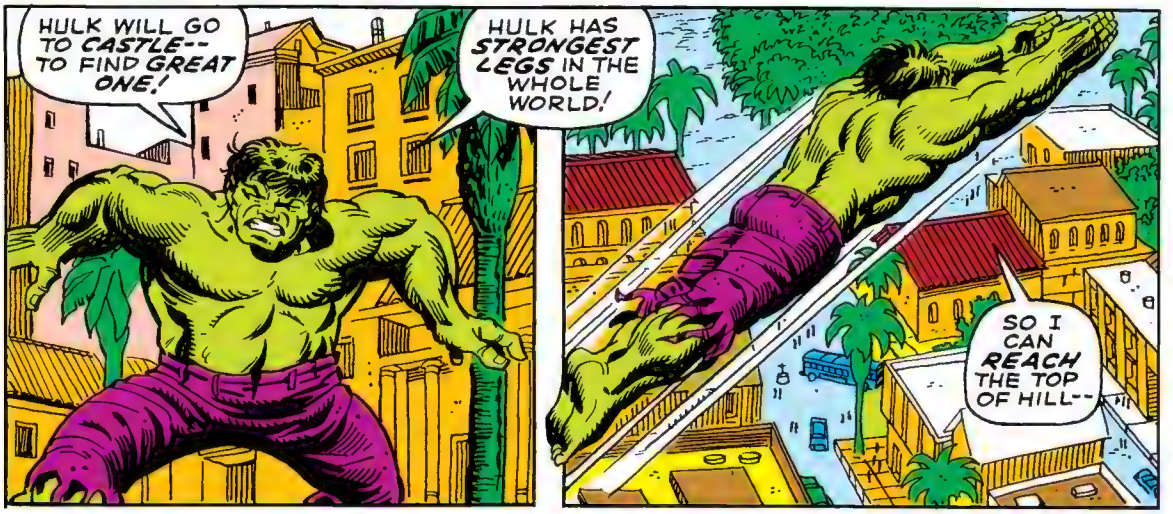
ESTA EL HULK!
NOW TELL ME I'M NO DIFFERENT!

MADRE MIA!! ONLY THE GREAT ONE CAN SAVE ME!

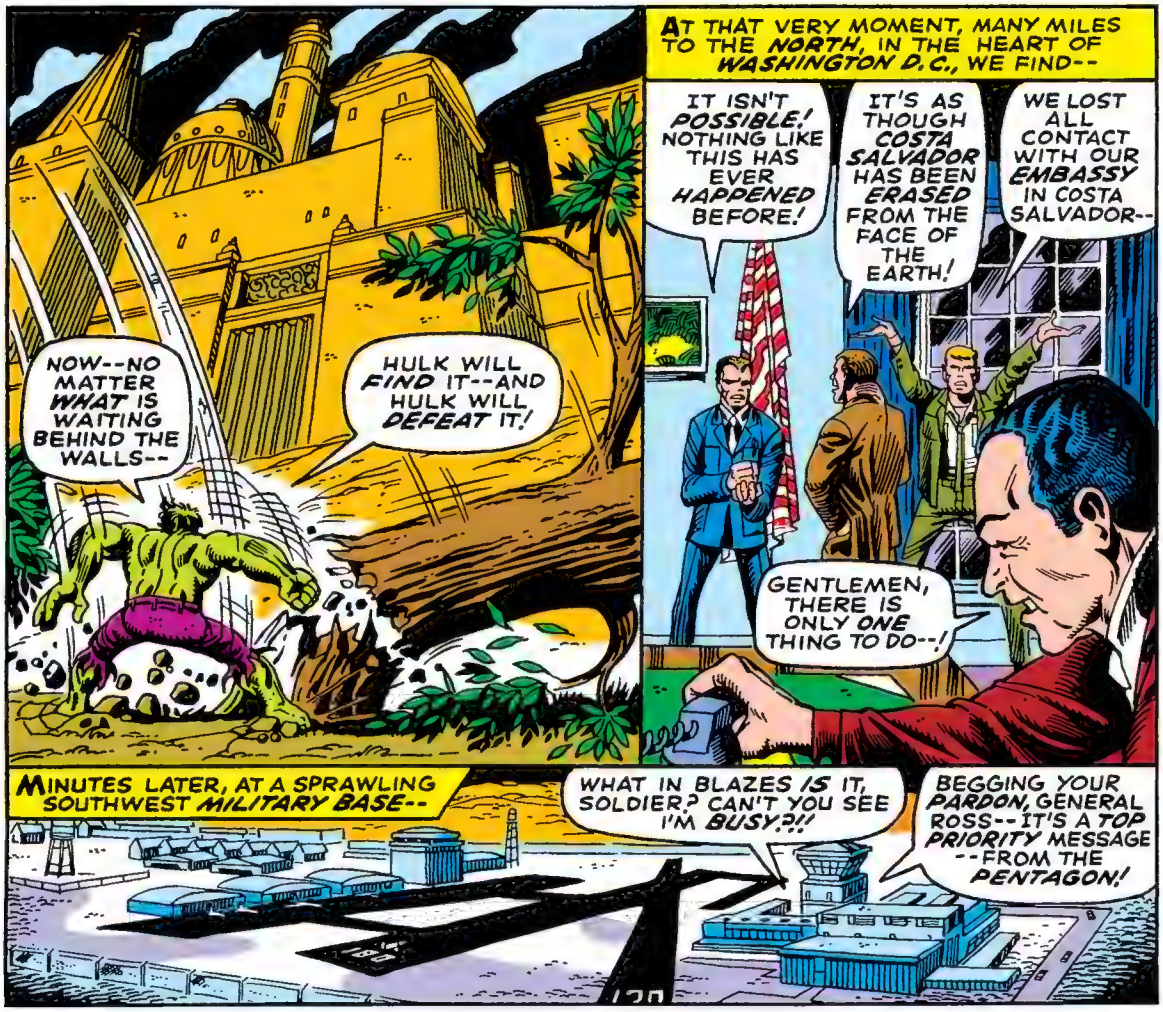
THE STATUE! IT'S SHINING . ITS LIGHT--CLOSER--AND CLOSER!
HULK DOESN'T KNOW WHAT LIGHT MEANS--
BUT--I REMEMBER THAT BANNER WAS--AFRAID OF IT!
BANNER SAID IT HURT HIM! BUT IT DOESN'T HURT--THE HULK!
NOTHING CAN HURT THE HULK!
BUT HULK DOESN'T LIKE THE LIGHT!
HULK CAN TELL--STATUE AND LIGHT--ARE HIS ENEMIES!
AND HULK ALWAYS FIGHTS --HIS ENEMIES!
STATUE MAY BE BIGGER THAN HULK--
--BUT HULK IS STILL STRONGER!
HULK IS STRONGER --THAN ANYONE!

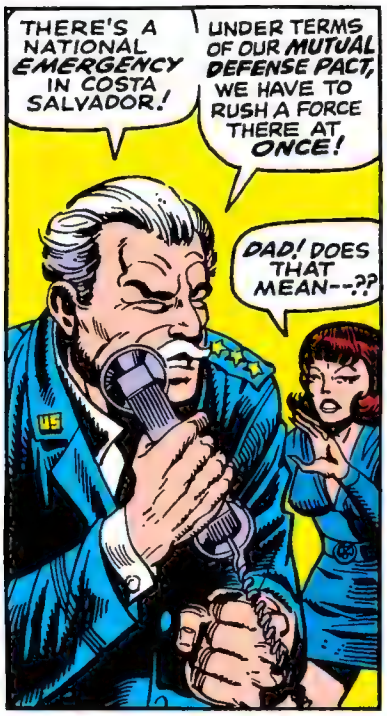

BKOOOOM!


STATUE STILL STANDS! NOT EVEN SCRATCHED!
BUT HULK WON'T WASTE TIME FIGHTING STATUES!

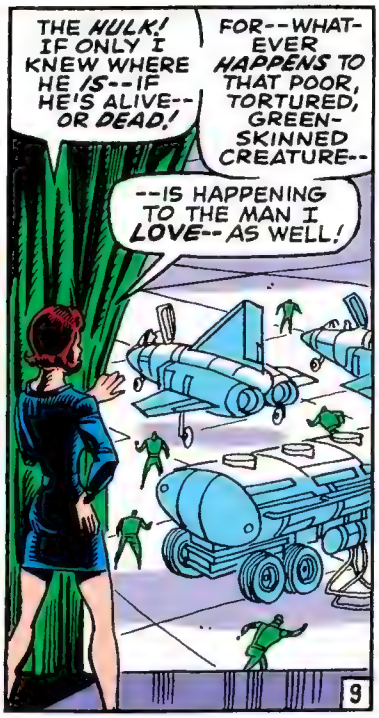

HULK WILL GO TO CASTLE-- TO FIND GREAT ONE!
HULK HAS STRONGEST LEGS IN THE WHOLE WORLD!
SO I CAN REACH THE TOP OF HILL--

--IN JUST ONE JUMP!

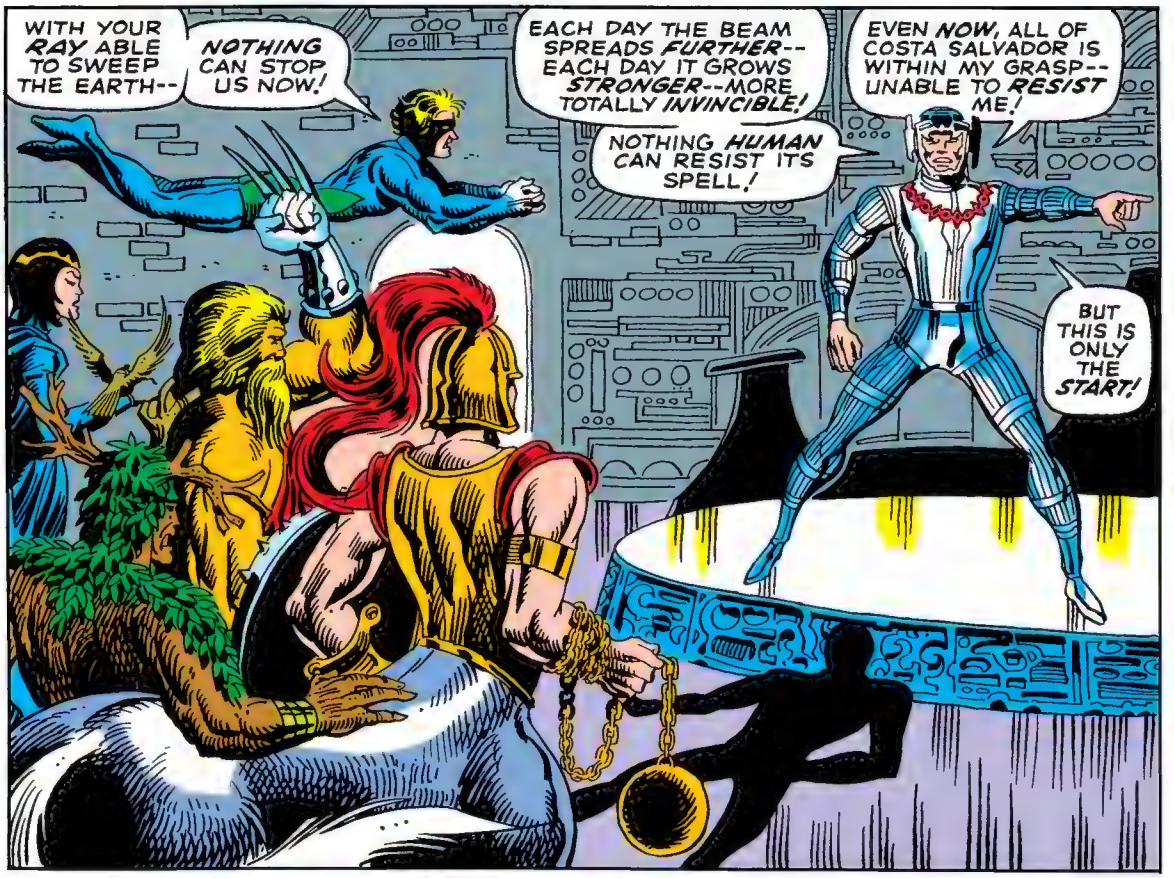

NOW--NO MATTER WHAT IS WAITING BEHIND THE WALLS--
HULK WILL FIND IT--AND HULK WILL DEFEAT IT!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, MANY MILES TO THE NORTH, IN THE HEART OF WASHINGTON D.C., WE FIND--
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
IT'S AS THOUGH COSTA SALVADOR HAS BEEN ERASED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
WE LOST ALL CONTACT WITH OUR EMBASSY IN COSTA SALVADOR--
GENTLEMEN, THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO--!
MINUTES LATER, AT A SPRAWLING SOUTHWEST MILITARY BASE--
WHAT IN BLAZES IS IT, SOLDIER? CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?!!
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, GENERAL ROSS--IT'S A TOP PRIORITY MESSAGE --FROM THE PENTAGON!

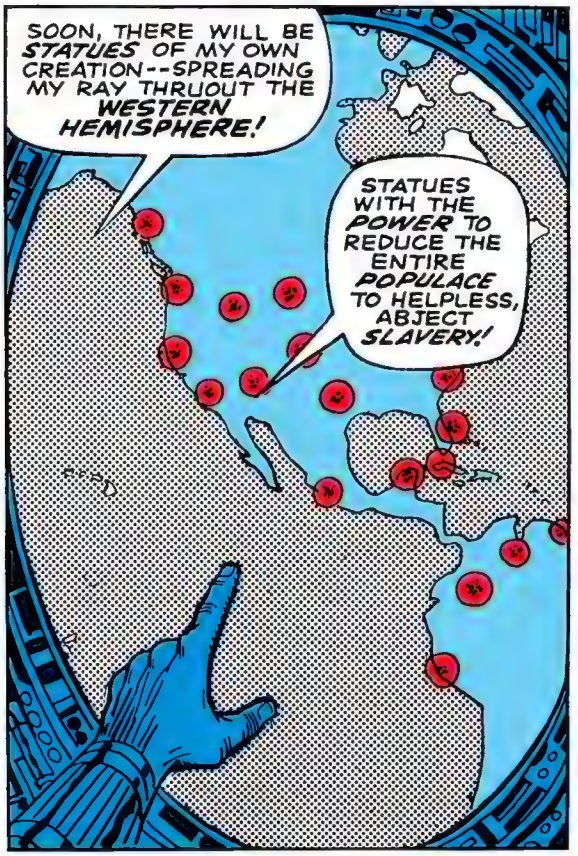

THERE'S A NATIONAL EMERGENCY IN COSTA SALVADOR!
UNDER TERMS OF OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT, WE HAVE TO RUSH A FORCE THERE AT ONCE!
DAD! DOES THAT MEAN--??

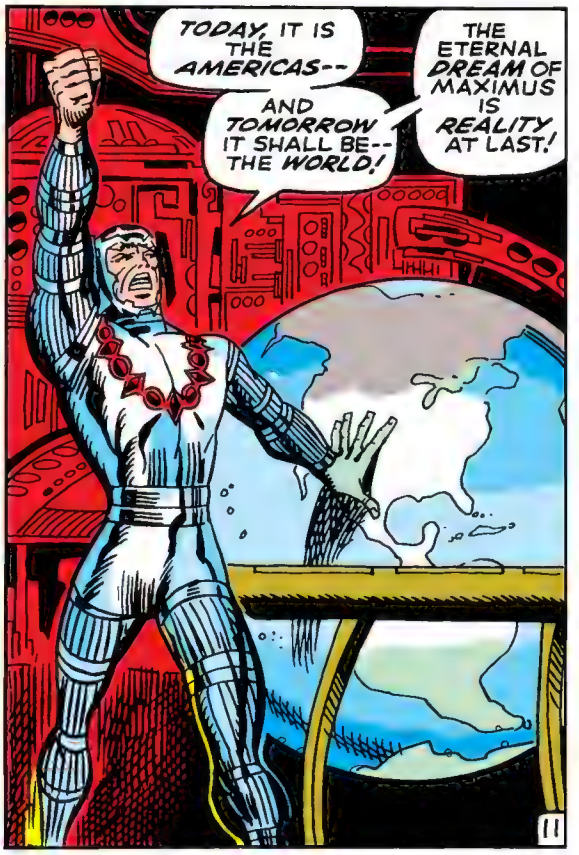
IT MEANS WHAT IT SAYS BETTY!
MAJOR TALBOT! CANCEL ALL LEAVES! ACTIVATE THE ENTIRE WING!
GET THE LEAD OUT, MAN! IT'S ABOUT TIME WE DID SOMETHING BESIDES CHASE THE HULK ALL OVER THE MAP!

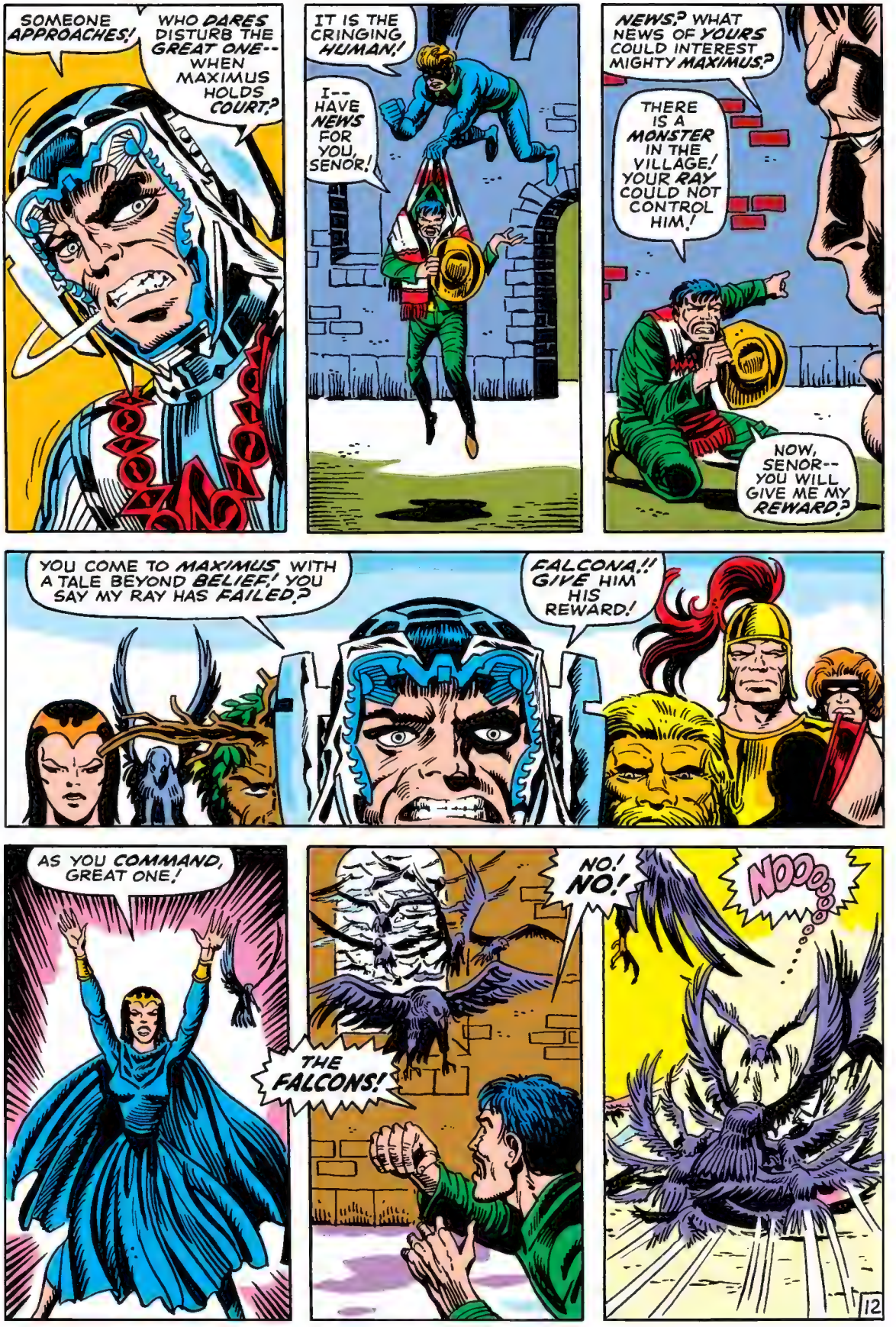

THE HULK! IF ONLY I KNEW WHERE HE IS--IF HE'S ALIVE--OR DEAD!
FOR--WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THAT POOR, TORTURED, GREEN-SKINNED CREATURE--
--IS HAPPENING TO THE MAN I LOVE--AS WELL!

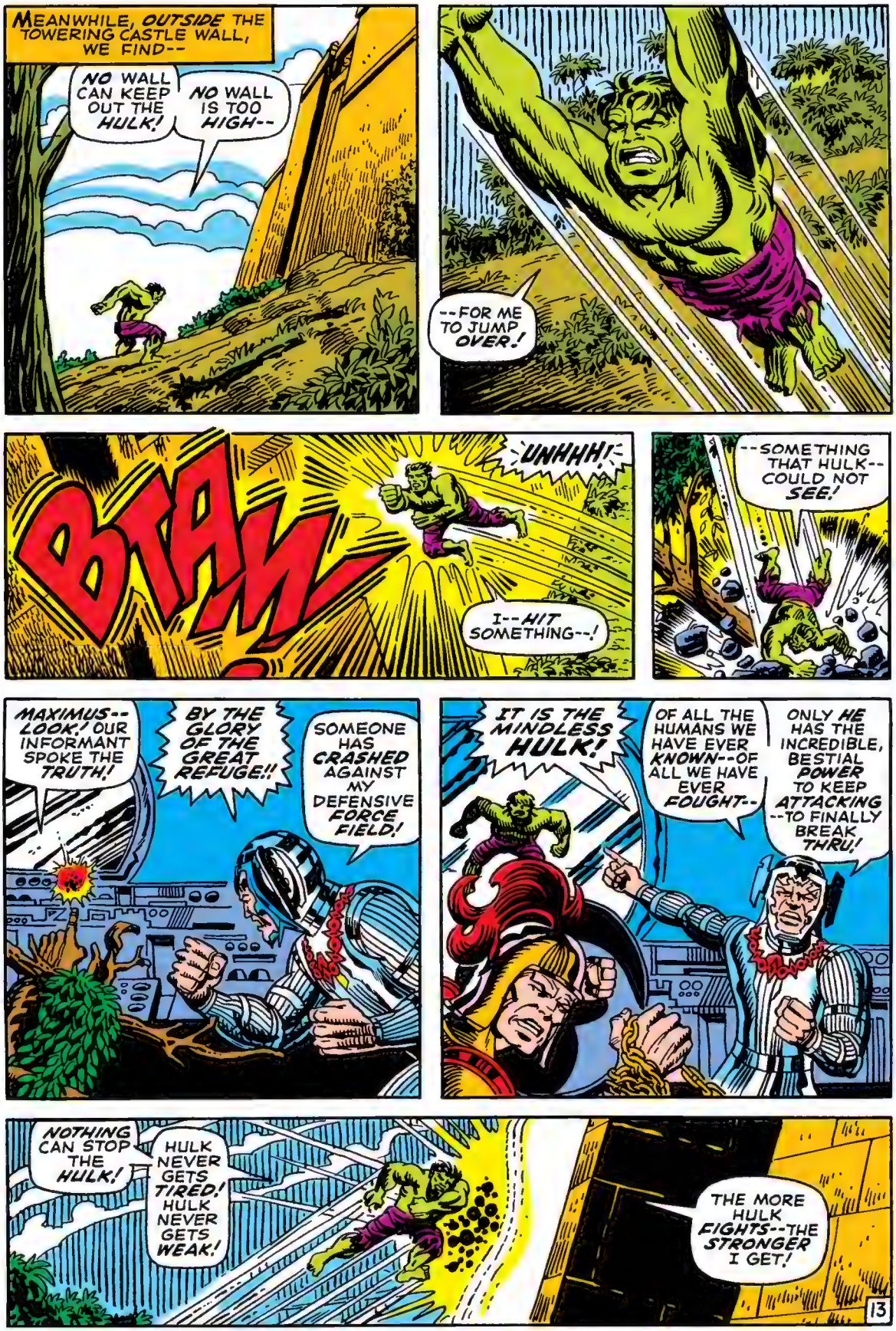
BUT, EVEN AS THE HEARTSICK GIRL STRIVES TO FIGHT BACK HER TEARS--
LITTLE DOES SHE DREAM THAT THE DESTINY OF BRUCE BANNER HINGES ON WHAT HAPPENS WITHIN A MYSTERIOUS CASTLE--MANY MILES SOUTH OF THE BORDER--
MY RAY WORKS PERFECTLY! VICTORY IS ALMOST WITHIN OUR GRASP!
THE TIME IS NEAR WHEN ALL MANKIND SHALL FALL!
--AND THEN MAXIMUS THE MAGNIFICENT SHALL RULE THE EARTH--AS I WAS BORN TO DO!
NEVER AGAIN WILL WE INHUMANS BE FORCED TO HIDE LIKE HUNTED BEASTS!
AND, WITH THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE UPON ITS KNEES--MY ACCURSED BROTHER, BLACK BOLT, WILL HAVE TO CALL ME KING--
--OR DIE--BY THE HAND OF MAXIMUS--THE HAND THAT HOLDS--THE POWER!
10


WITH YOUR RAY ABLE TO SWEEP THE EARTH--
NOTHING CAN STOP US NOW!
EACH DAY THE BEAM SPREADS FURTHER--EACH DAY IT GROWS STRONGER--MORE TOTALLY INVINCIBLE!
NOTHING HUMAN CAN RESIST ITS SPELL!
EVEN NOW, ALL OF COSTA SALVADOR IS WITHIN MY GRASP--UNABLE TO RESIST ME!
BUT THIS IS ONLY THE START!

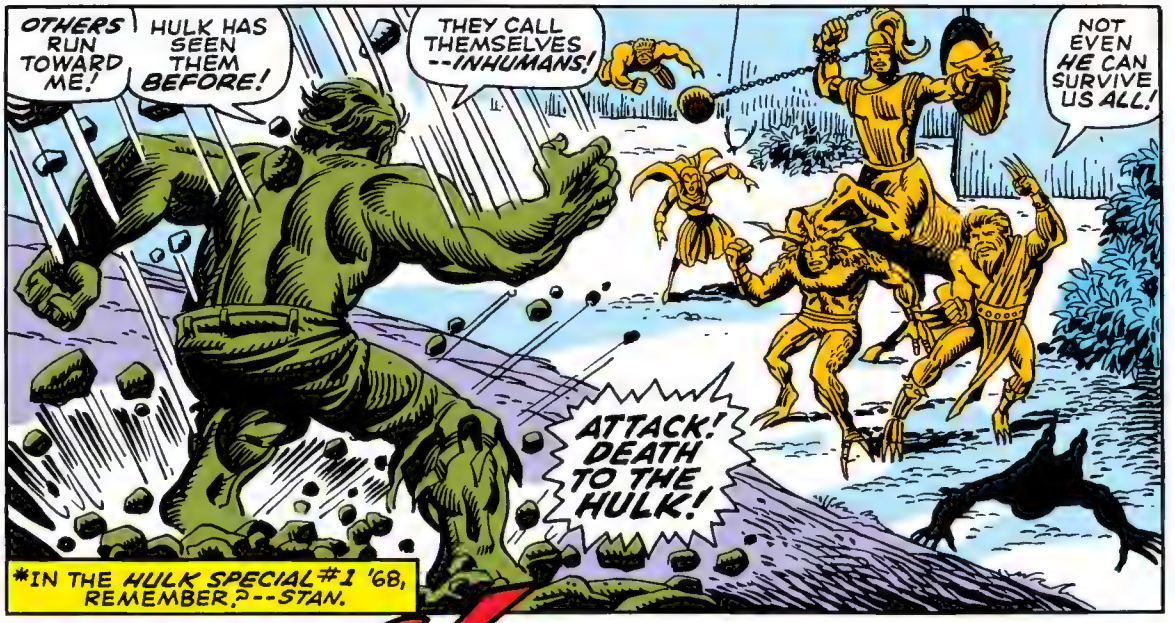

SOON, THERE WILL BE STATUES OF MY OWN CREATION--SPREADING MY RAY THRUOUT THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE!
STATUES WITH THE POWER TO REDUCE THE ENTIRE POPULACE TO HELPLESS, ABJECT SLAVERY!


TODAY, IT IS THE AMERICAS--
AND TOMORROW IT SHALL BE--THE WORLD!
THE ETERNAL DREAM OF MAXIMUS IS REALITY AT LAST!
11


SOMEONE APPROACHES!
WHO DARES DISTURB THE GREAT ONE-- WHEN MAXIMUS HOLDS COURT?
IT IS THE CRINGING HUMAN!
I-- HAVE NEWS FOR YOU, SENOR!
NEWS? WHAT NEWS OF YOURS COULD INTEREST MIGHTY MAXIMUS?
THERE IS A MONSTER IN THE VILLAGE! YOUR RAY COULD NOT CONTROL HIM!
NOW, SENOR-- YOU WILL GIVE ME MY REWARD?
YOU COME TO MAXIMUS WITH A TALE BEYOND BELIEF! YOU SAY MY RAY HAS FAILED?
FALCONA!! GIVE HIM HIS REWARD!
AS YOU COMMAND, GREAT ONE!
THE FALCONS!
NO! NO!
NOOO
12

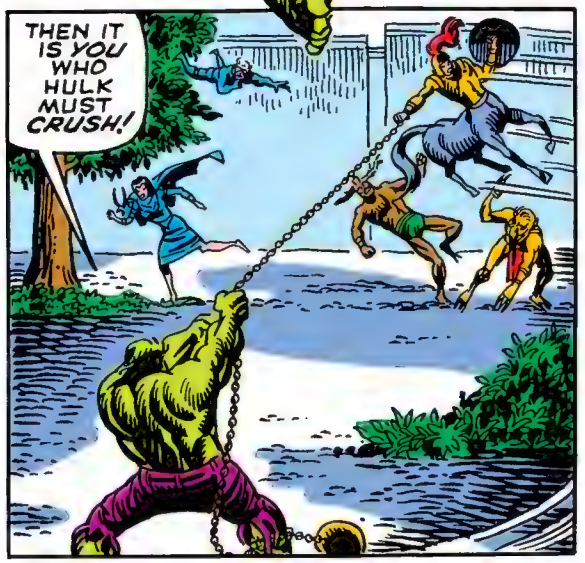

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE TOWERING CASTLE WALL, WE FIND--
NO WALL CAN KEEP OUT THE HULK!
NO WALL IS TOO HIGH--
--FOR ME TO JUMP OVER!
BTAM
UNHHH!
I--HIT SOMETHING--!
--SOMETHING THAT HULK-- COULD NOT SEE!
MAXIMUS--LOOK! OUR INFORMANT SPOKE THE TRUTH!
BY THE GLORY OF THE GREAT REFUGE!!
SOMEONE HAS CRASHED AGAINST MY DEFENSIVE FORCE FIELD!
IT IS THE MINDLESS HULK!
OF ALL THE HUMANS WE HAVE EVER KNOWN--OF ALL WE HAVE EVER FOUGHT--
ONLY HE HAS THE INCREDIBLE, BESTIAL POWER TO KEEP ATTACKING --TO FINALLY BREAK THRU!
NOTHING CAN STOP THE HULK!
HULK NEVER GETS TIRED! HULK NEVER GETS WEAK!
THE MORE HULK FIGHTS--THE STRONGER I GET!
13

THIS IS THE CHANCE I HAVE WAITED FOR!
THE CHANCE TO TEST YOUR FIGHTING PROWESS!
I, MAXIMUS--THE TRULY GREAT ONE, HAVE CHOSEN YOU TO SERVE ME--AND NOW YOU SHALL PROVE YOURSELVES!
THOUGH HIS STRENGTH IS GREATER THEN ALL OF YOU COMBINED--
YOU MUST USE YOUR WITS--YOUR POWERS--TO DELAY HIM--TO CONFUSE HIM!
REMEMBER --YOU NEED HAVE NO FEAR!
IF ALL ELSE FAILS, MINE IS THE POWER SUPREME! NOT EVEN THE HULK IS A MATCH FOR MAXIMUS!
SEE HOW HE ATTACKS THE WALL ONCE MORE!
PUKOOOM!
HAH! HULK HAS CRASHED THRU!


OTHERS RUN TOWARD ME!
HULK HAS SEEN THEM BEFORE!
THEY CALL THEMSELVES --INHUMANS!
NOT EVEN HE CAN SURVIVE US ALL!
ATTACK! DEATH TO THE HULK!
*IN THE HULK SPECIAL #1 '68, REMEMBER?--STAN.

FLANNNG!

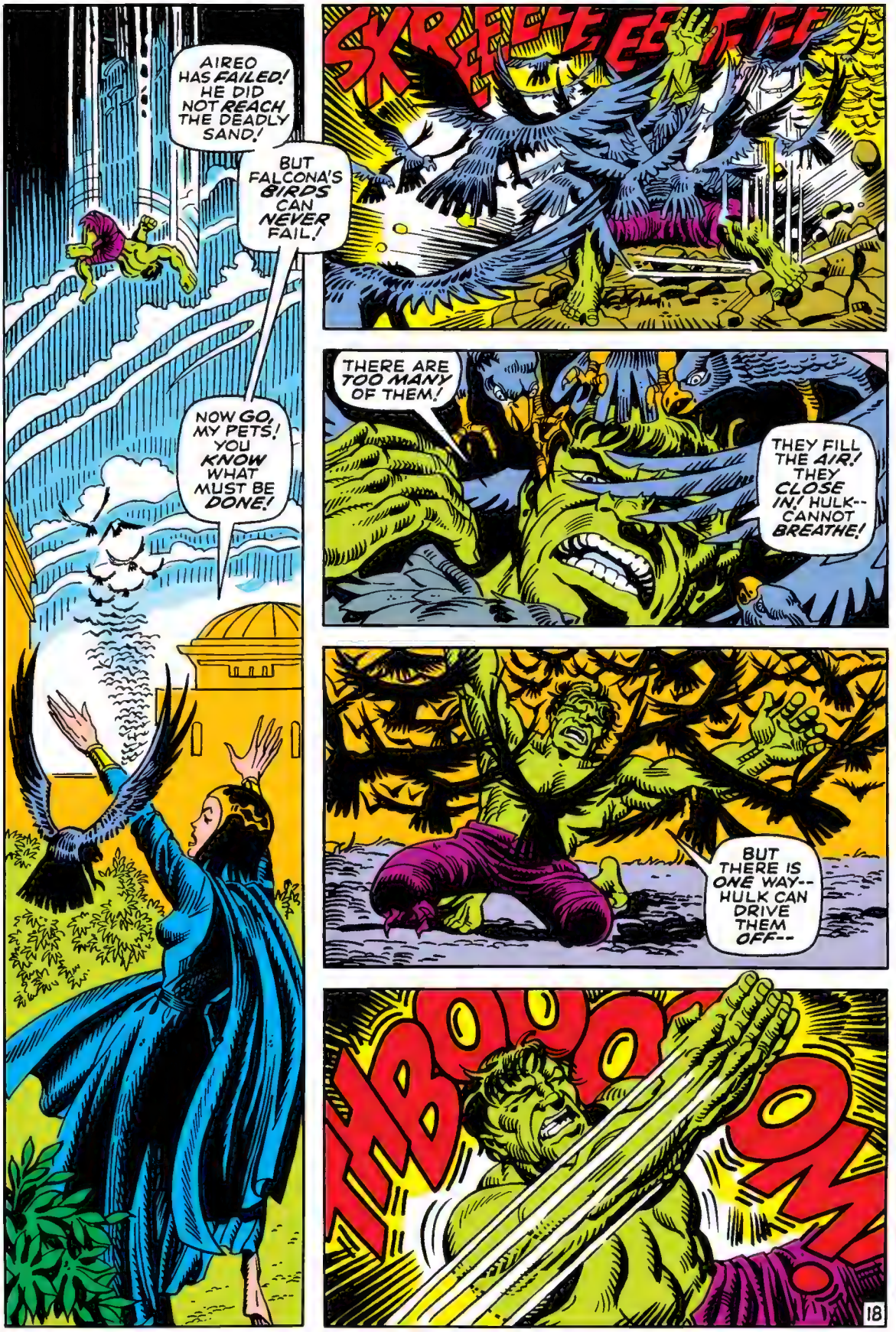
SO! IT IS YOU WHO ARE HULK'S ENEMIES!!

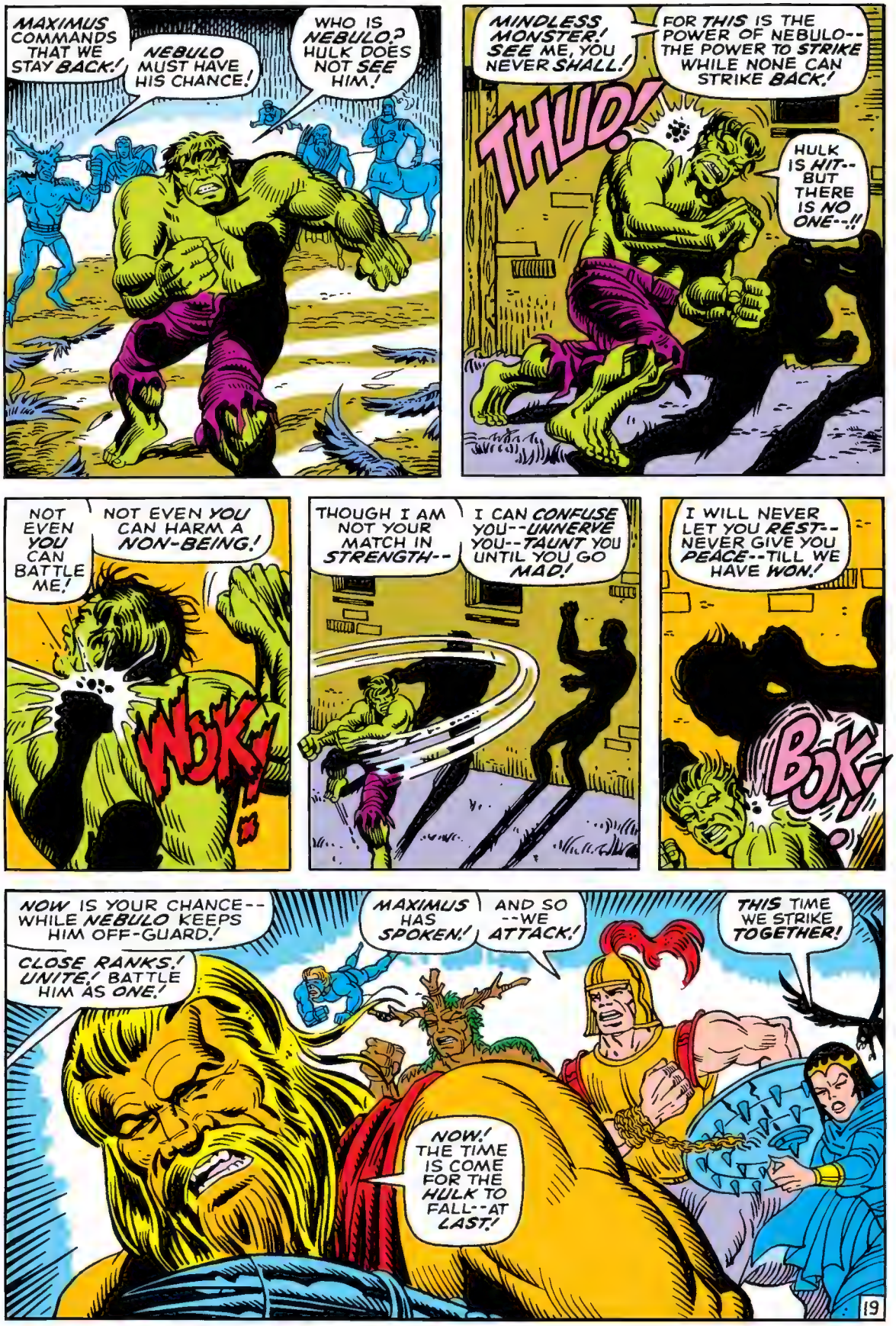

THEN IT IS YOU WHO HULK MUST CRUSH!

VZNNNG!

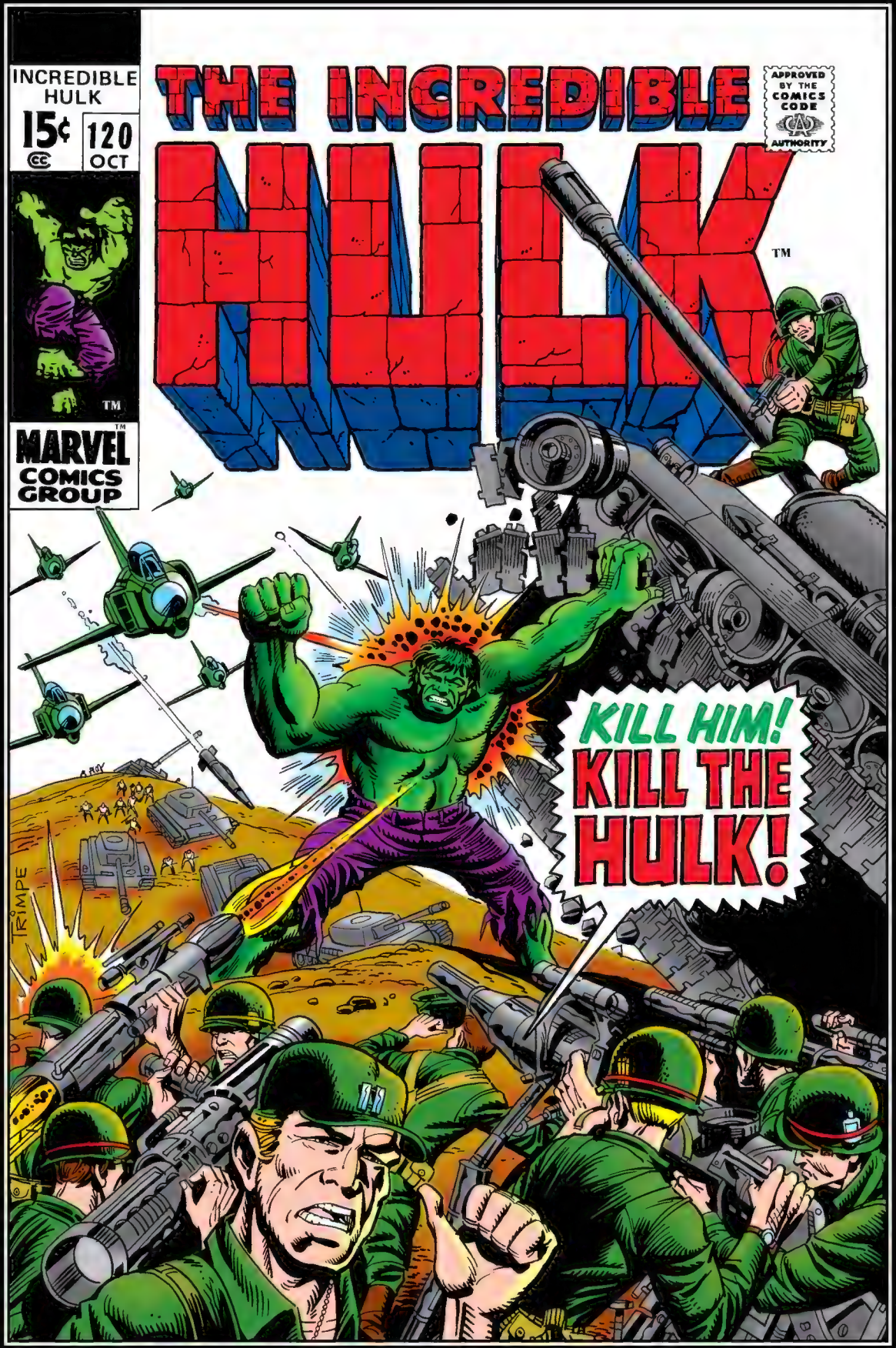
WITH ONE MIGHTY CHOMP THE STRONGEST JAWS ON EARTH SEVER THE IRON LINKS--AND THEN--
SOMEONE BEHIND ME--!
KR-NNTCH!
BUT, BEFORE THE GREEN-SKINNED GARGANTUAN CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE--
HAH! NOW YOU WILL FEEL THE MIGHT OF LEONUS!
WHY--DO YOU NOT--FALL? WHAT--HOLDS YOU UP?
NO! NONE HAVE EVER --BROKEN MY GRIP--SO FAST!
THE HULK CAN DO ANYTHING!
ANYTHING!
YOU ARE A FOOL IF YOU THINK TO GAIN VICTORY IN THAT MANNER!
--SUCH AS THE POWER YOU ARE NOW ABOUT TO FEEL--
WE INHUMANS ARE MANY--AND WE EACH HAVE OUR OWN, DISTINCTIVE POWER--
THE POWER OF TIMBERIUS!
THE POWER TO AFFECT THE GROWTH--THE MOVEMENT--OF ANY LIVING PIECE OF VEGETATION!
SOMETHING--STRANGLING ME--!
16

NOT EVEN YOUR SAVAGE STRENGTH CAN INCREASE AS FAST AS MY SERVILE ROOTS CAN GROW--AND TIGHTEN!
AIREO--HO! HE IS READY NOW!
TAKE HIM TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE HEIGHT--AND THEN--LET HIM PLUMMET DOWN!
A MOST SIMPLE TASK FOR THE FLYING INHUMAN!
THEY WILL HOLD YOU LONG ENOUGH!
YOU THINK VINES CAN HOLD HULK?
I WILL DROP HIM OVER THE SAND WHICH HAS NO BOTTOM!
NOT ALL HIS STRENGTH CAN SAVE HIM THEN!
HULK'S STRENGTH HAS NEVER FAILED BEFORE!
AND IT WILL NOT FAIL ME NOW!
HULK WILL NEVER FALL INTO BOTTOMLESS SAND!
SKRAK


AIREO HAS FAILED! HE DID NOT REACH THE DEADLY SAND!
BUT FALCONA'S BIRDS CAN NEVER FAIL!
NOW GO, MY PETS! YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE!
SKREEE EE EE
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!
THEY FILL THE AIR! THEY CLOSE IN! HULK-- CANNOT BREATHE!
BUT THERE IS ONE WAY-- HULK CAN DRIVE THEM OFF--
THBOOOOOOM
18

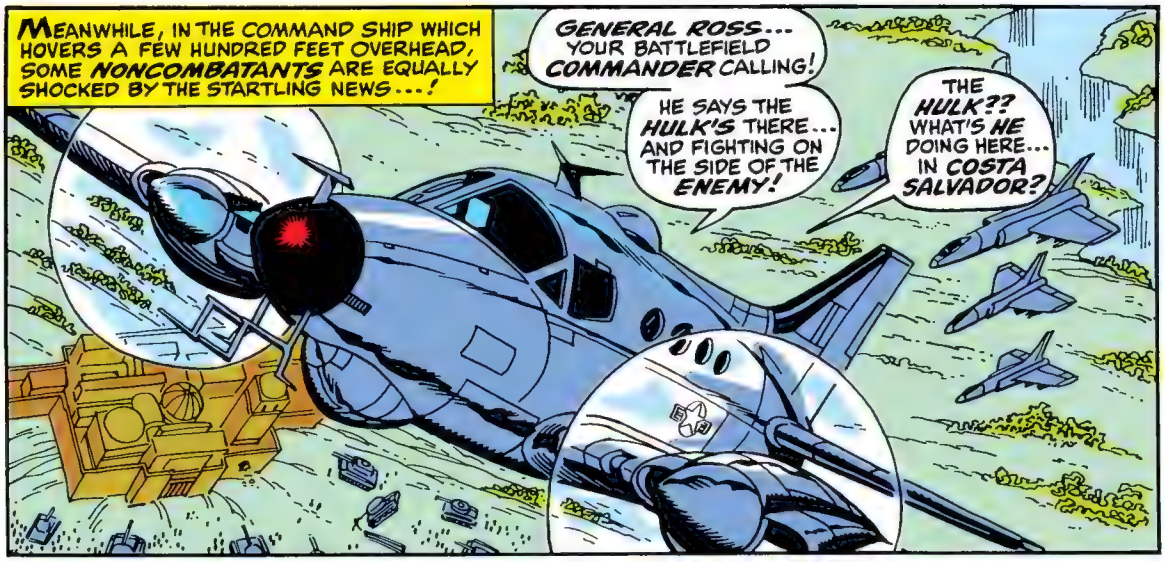

MAXIMUS COMMANDS THAT WE STAY BACK!
NEBULO MUST HAVE HIS CHANCE!
WHO IS NEBULO? HULK DOES NOT SEE HIM!
MINDLESS MONSTER! SEE ME, YOU NEVER SHALL!
FOR THIS IS THE POWER OF NEBULO--THE POWER TO STRIKE WHILE NONE CAN STRIKE BACK!
THUD!
HULK IS HIT--BUT THERE IS NO ONE--!!
NOT EVEN YOU CAN BATTLE ME!
NOT EVEN YOU CAN HARM A NON-BEING!
WOK!
THOUGH I AM NOT YOUR MATCH IN STRENGTH--
I CAN CONFUSE YOU--UNNERVE YOU--TAUNT YOU UNTIL YOU GO MAD!
I WILL NEVER LET YOU REST--NEVER GIVE YOU PEACE--TILL WE HAVE WON!
BOK
NOW IS YOUR CHANCE--WHILE NEBULO KEEPS HIM OFF-GUARD!
CLOSE RANKS! UNITE! BATTLE HIM AS ONE!
MAXIMUS HAS SPOKEN!
AND SO --WE ATTACK!
THIS TIME WE STRIKE TOGETHER!
NOW! THE TIME IS COME FOR THE HULK TO FALL--AT LAST!
19

BUT SUDDENLY, AS THE BAND OF INHUMANS BEGINS TO CLOSE IN--
HOLD!! WE MUST REGROUP ONCE MORE!
THERE--UP IN THE SKY--ANOTHER DANGER THREATENS!
AN ARMED AMERICAN TASK FORCE--FLYING TO ATTACK US!
HAH! THEY FALL BACK! THEY ARE AFRAID OF HULK!
NO! IT IS NOT FEAR! IT IS BECAUSE--THE ARMY COMES!
BUT, THE ARMY IS HULK'S ENEMY, TOO! WHAT--DO I DO--NOW?
HULK! HEED THE WORDS OF MAXIMUS--!
YOU ARE AN OUTCAST--EVEN AS WE INHUMANS!
JOIN US--AND TOGETHER WE SHALL PUT THAT FORCE TO ROUTE! REMEMBER--THE ARMY WOULD DESTROY YOU AS WELL AS US!
BUT YOU ARE MORE EVIL!
WHAT DO GOOD OR EVIL MATTER? ALL THAT COUNTS IS--SURVIVAL!
AND, I TELL YOU THIS--MAXIMUS SHALL SURVIVE!
HULK MUST MAKE CHOICE! BUT--HOW? HOW? HOW?
NO MATTER WHO WINS--HULK CAN ONLY--LOSE!
NEXT THE DREAD DECISION!
20


INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
120
OCT
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
TM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
KILL HIM!
KILL THE HULK!
TRIMPE

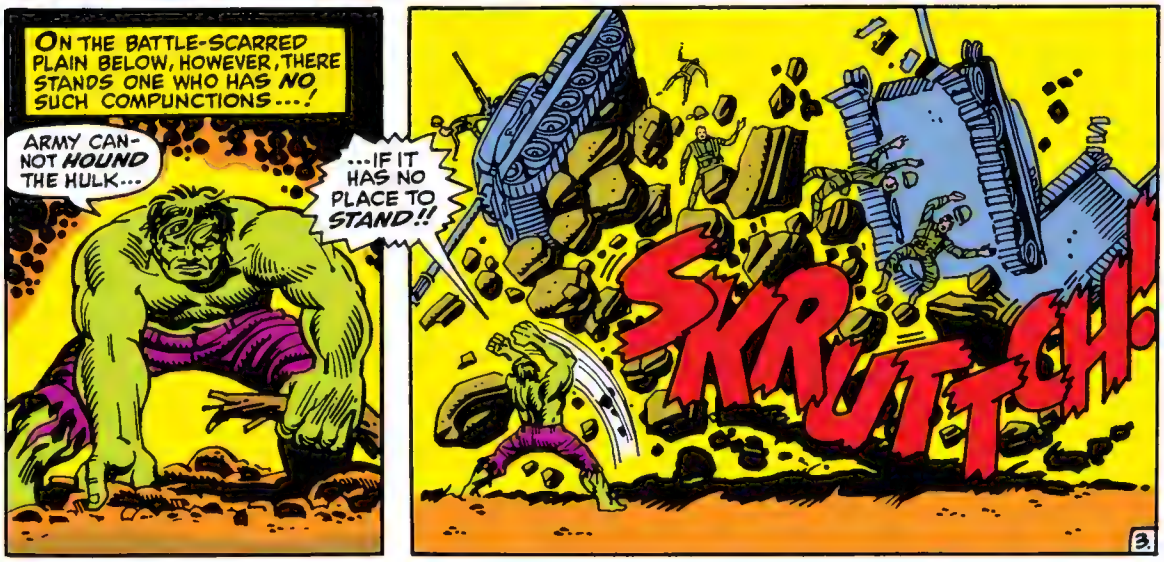
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
"ON THE SIDE OF..."
...THE EVIL INHUMANS!"
THE CHOICE IS YOURS, HULK!
JOIN FORCES WITH MAXIMUS... AND TOGETHER WE SHALL DEFEAT THE LANDING PARATROOPS!
HULK WANTS TO DO...THE RIGHT THING!
OR, OPPOSE ME...AND HAVE THE ARMY ATTACK US BOTH!
BUT, NO MATTER WHO WINS ...HULK CAN ONLY...LOSE!!
STAN LEE PLOT
ROY THOMAS SCRIPT
HERB TRIMPE ART
LETTERED BY SAM ROSEN

MAKE YOUR CHOICE QUICKLY, YOU MINDLESS MONSTROSITY!
THE AMERICAN TROOPS ARE ALMOST UPON US!
ALWAYS, THE HULK HAS WANTED... JUST TO BE LEFT ALONE!
BUT ALWAYS, THE ARMY HOUNDS HIM... EVEN HERE!
SO... THE CHOICE IS CLEAR..!
THE HULK STANDS WITH ...MAXIMUS!
SKWAK!
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY RELUCTANT ALLY!
THE CYCLONIC FURY OF YOUR BLOW FELLED THOSE WHO LANDED WITHIN MY FORTRESS!
BUT, THE BATTLE IS NOT YET WON!
THE MAIN BODY OF TROOPS IS MASSING OUTSIDE THE WALLS!
HULK HAS FOUGHT ARMY BEFORE!
IT IS THEY YOU MUST DEFEAT... WITH THEIR ARTILLERY!
HE DOES NOT NEED YOU TO TELL HIM HOW TO FIGHT!
HE NEEDS... NO ONE!!
GOOD LORD! IT'S... THE HULK!
WE CAN SEE THAT, SOLDIER!
NOW... OPEN FIRE! GIVE 'IM ALL YOU'VE GOT!
2.


MEANWHILE, IN THE COMMAND SHIP WHICH HOVERS A FEW HUNDRED FEET OVERHEAD, SOME NONCOMBATANTS ARE EQUALLY SHOCKED BY THE STARTLING NEWS...!
GENERAL ROSS... YOUR BATTLEFIELD COMMANDER CALLING!
HE SAYS THE HULK'S THERE... AND FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF THE ENEMY!
THE HULK?? WHAT'S HE DOING HERE... IN COSTA SALVADOR?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THAT MAKE, SIR?
SHALL I ORDER AIR-TO-SURFACE ASSAULT, GENERAL?
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO DESTROY HIM...ONCE AND FOR ALL!
NOT YET, SON!
NO, NOT JUST YET!

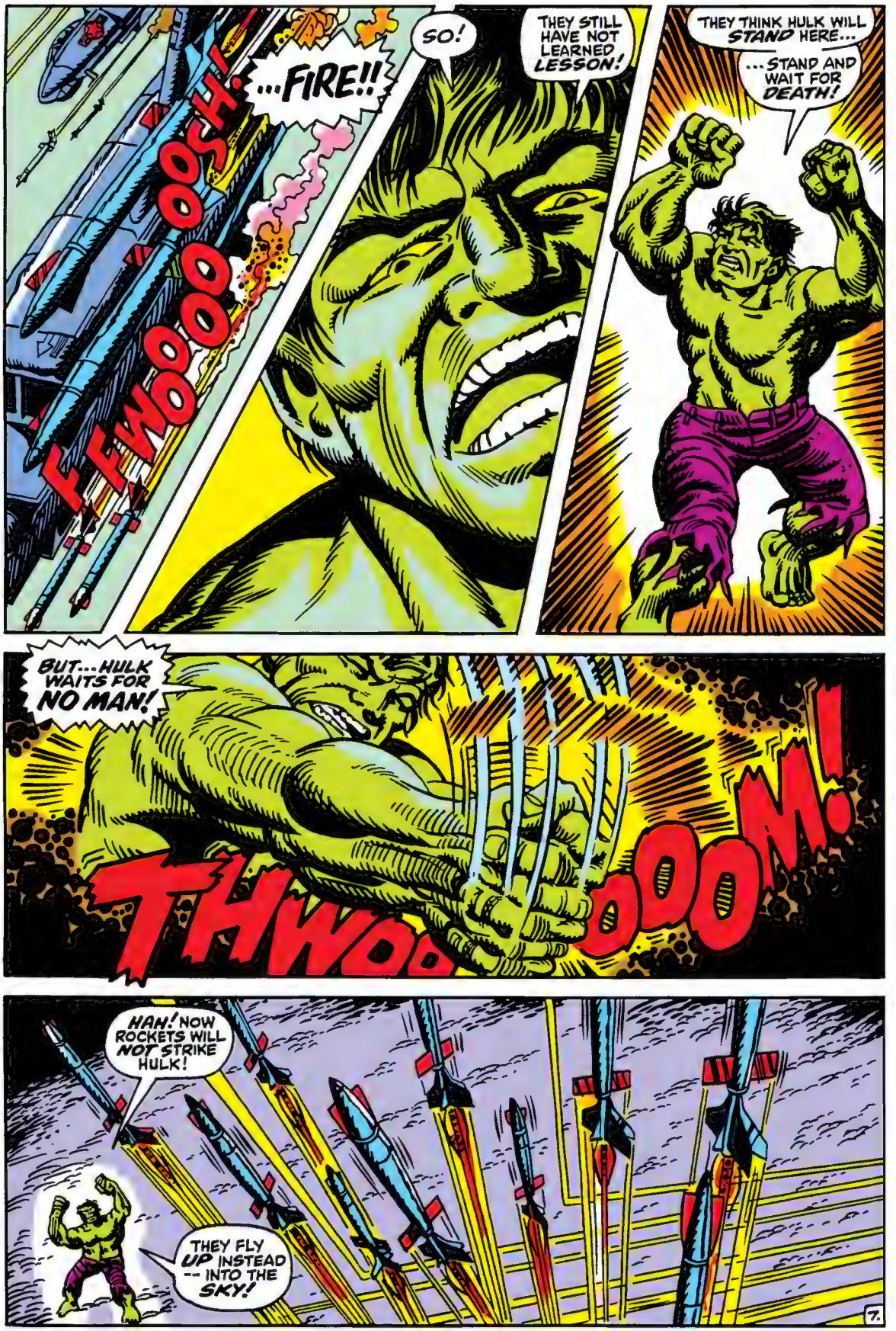
BUT... WHY NOT, SIR?
REMEMBER, TALBOT, WE'RE HERE UNDER THE TERMS OF A MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT!
WHATEVER THE HULK'S PART IN THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY HERE..HE DIDN'T BUILD THAT ARMORED FORTRESS!
I'M HOLDING BACK...TILL I'M SURE JUST WHO OUR MAIN ENEMY IS!


ON THE BATTLE-SCARRED PLAIN BELOW, HOWEVER, THERE STANDS ONE WHO HAS NO SUCH COMPUNCTIONS...!
ARMY CANNOT HOUND THE HULK...
...IF IT HAS NO PLACE TO STAND!!
SKRUTCH!
3.

HE RIPPED UP THE GROUND--- BENEATH OUR HEAVIEST TANKS!
WE DON'T DARE FACE HIM IN MAN-TO-MAN COMBAT!
BRING UP THE ROCKET LAUNCHERS!
ROCKET LAUNCHERS AT THE READY, SERGEANT!
STANDING BY!
BUT, WE CAN'T FIRE NOW...
NOT WHILE OUR OWN MEN ARE SO CLOSE BY HIM!
JUMP, YOU JOES...OUTTA THE LINE OF FIRE!
YES... JUMP... FLEE... RUN!
LET HULK BE...AND THE BATTLE WILL END!
OKAY, YOU MEAT-HEADS...OUR GUYS ARE IN THE CLEAR!
FIRE ROCKETS!
WHUUM!
WHUUM!
SO...STILL THEY WILL NOT LEAVE HULK ALONE!
NO ONE EVER LISTENS TO HULK!
4

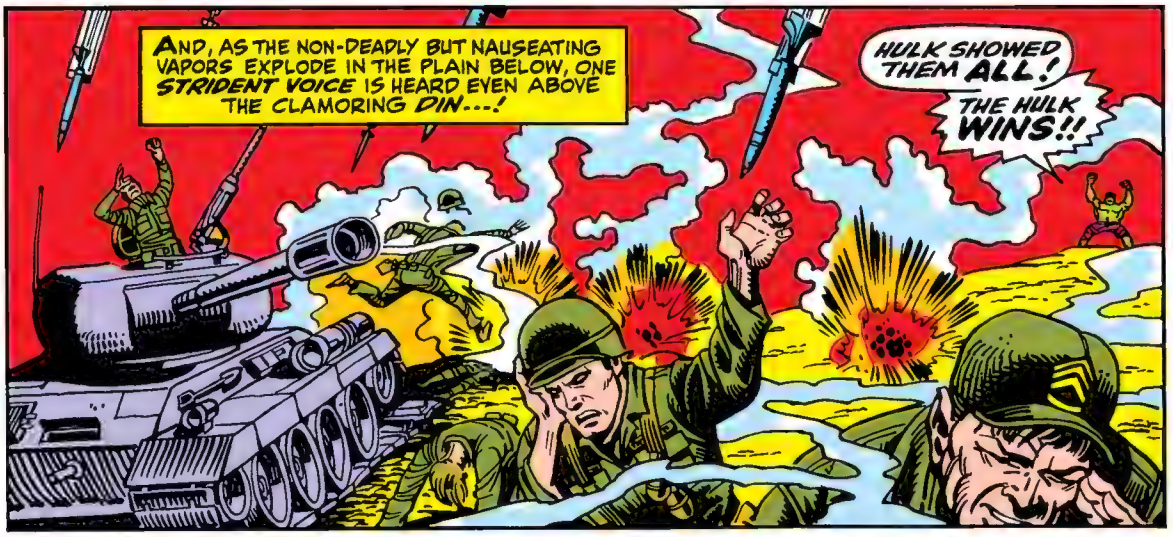
BUT... HULK WILL MAKE THEM LISTEN!
SHROOM
THE MANUAL ROCKETS DIDN'T FAZE HIM, GENERAL
FIELD COMMANDER REPEATS REQUEST FOR AIR SUPPORT!
AND, BY JUMPIN' GEORGE, HE'S GOING TO GET IT!
ORDER AERIAL ASSAULT... NOW!
BIG HAWK TO LITTLE EAGLES!
PREPARE TO FIRE EXPERIMENTAL MISSILES!
ROGER, BIG HAWK!
WE'LL KNOCK THAT JOLLY GREEN GIANT RIGHT ON HIS CAN OF PEAS!
5

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!
THOSE NEW GAS ROCKETS WOULD POLISH OFF A HERD OF RHINOS!
NO... NOOOOO!
WHAT?
WHO IN JUMPIN' BLUE BLAZES WAS THAT?
IT CAN'T BE...NOT HERE!
BETTY!
A STOW-AWAY!
I HAD TO DO IT, FATHER!
SOMEHOW, I KNEW YOU'D FIND THE HULK... WHEREVER HE MIGHT BE!
BUT...NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND HIM... YOU CAN'T KILL HIM!
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT BRUCE BANNER LIVES WITHIN THAT BRUTISH BODY!
BANNER'S DEAD, GIRL!
ONLY THE HULK IS LEFT..!
GENERAL! LOOK OUT THE PORTHOLE!
THE PLANES ARE ZEROING IN...THEY'RE ALL SET TO...
6


FFWOOOOSH!
...FIRE!!
SO!
THEY STILL HAVE NOT LEARNED LESSON!
THEY THINK HULK WILL STAND HERE...
...STAND AND WAIT FOR DEATH!
BUT...HULK WAITS FOR NO MAN!
THWOOOOOM!
HAH! NOW ROCKETS WILL NOT STRIKE HULK!
THEY FLY UP INSTEAD -- INTO THE SKY!
7.

THUNDERATION! HE DEFLECTED THOSE MISSILES...WITH THE VIBRATIONS FROM A SINGLE BLOW!
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING THAT WILL STOP THAT MONSTER...SHORT OF AN A-BOMB?
WE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THAT MERE TOXIC GASES WOULDN'T DO THE TRICK, SIR!
AFTER ALL, THEY WEREN'T EVEN DESIGNED TO KILL--!
GENERAL ROSS...MESSAGE COMING IN FROM FIELD COMMANDER--!
GRIFFITHS

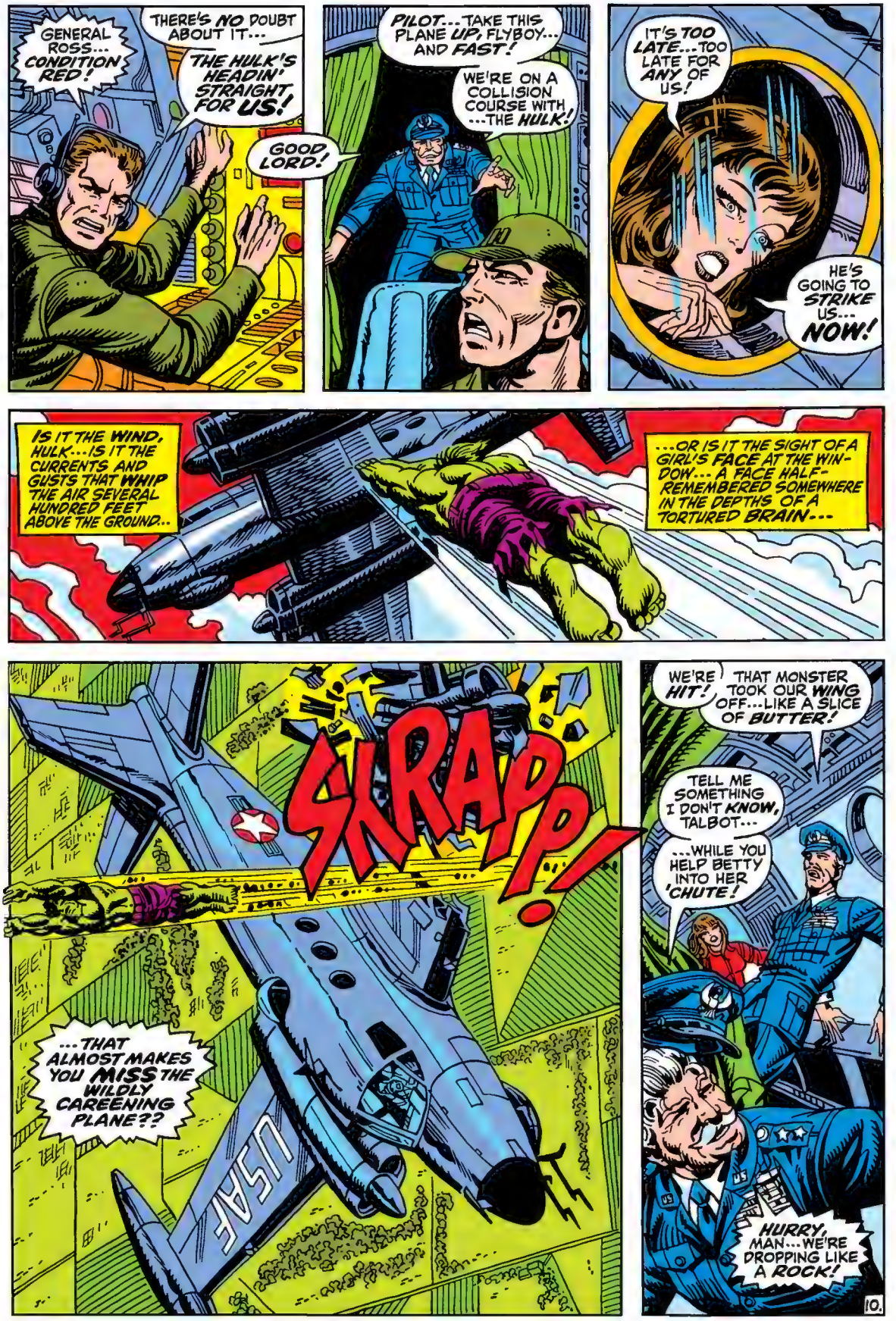
WELL, SPEAK UP, MAN!
WHAT IS IT?
THE MISSILES, SIR! THE HULK'S BLOW MUST HAVE DAMAGED THEIR INTERNAL MECHANISMS!
THE'VE GONE WILD, SIR... AND THEY'RE FALLING...
...RIGHT IN THE MIDST OF OUR OWN TROOPS!


AND, AS THE NON-DEADLY BUT NAUSEATING VAPORS EXPLODE IN THE PLAIN BELOW, ONE STRIDENT VOICE IS HEARD EVEN ABOVE THE CLAMORING DIN...!
HULK SHOWED THEM ALL!
THE HULK WINS!!

WHILE, BACK WITHIN THE STRONGHOLD OF THE EVIL INHUMANS...
THE ARMY IS DEFEATED!
NOW, GREAT ONE, LET US UNITE TO DESTROY THE HULK BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
THAT DECISION IS MINE TO MAKE, TIMBERIUS!
AND, MAXIMUS SAYS...NO!

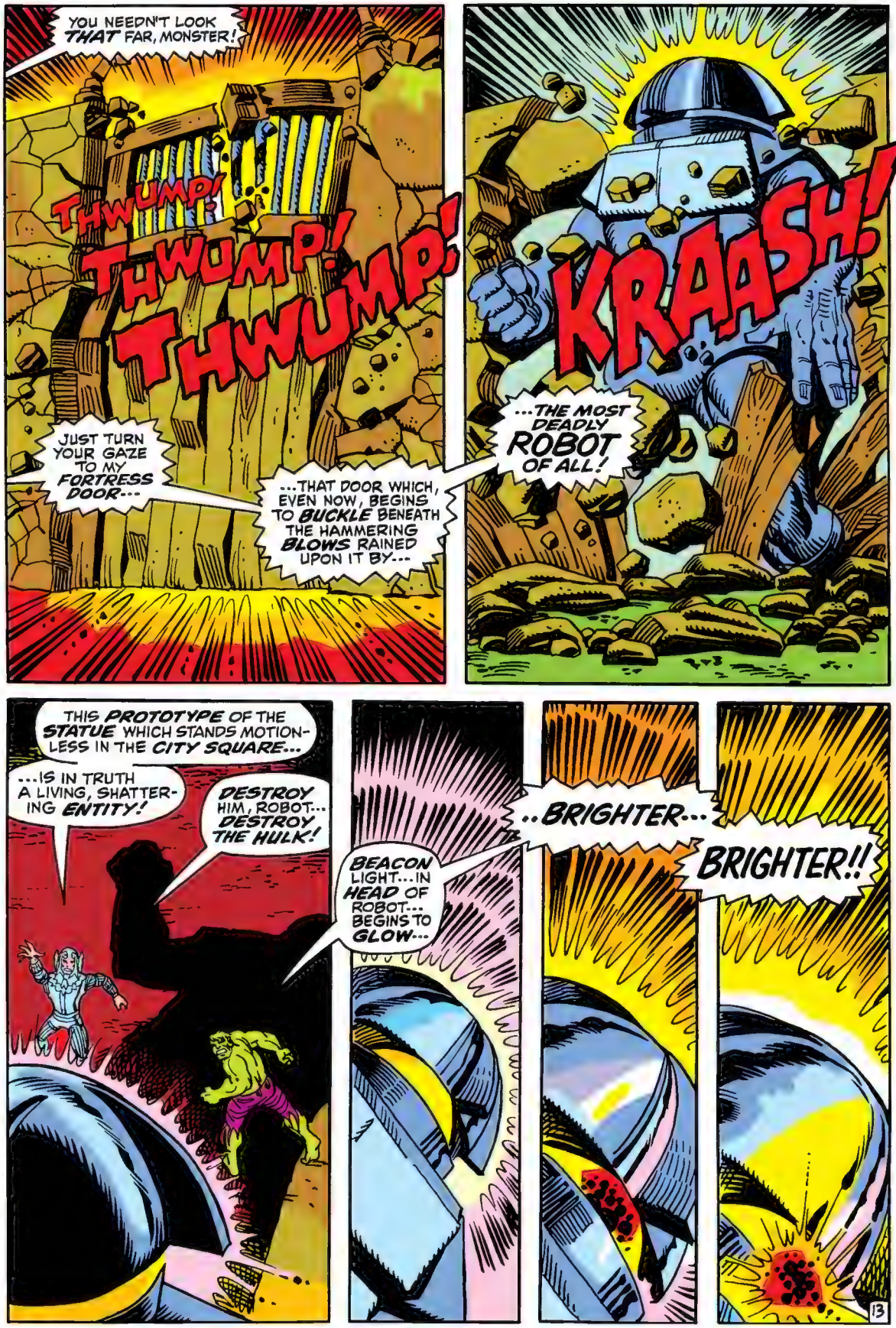
PERHAPS THEY DID NOT ERR WHO CALLED MAXIMUS MAD!
IF WE DO NOT KILL THE HULK...HE WILL TURN AGAINST US!
HAH! YOU DO ALWAYS DESIRE THE LION'S SHARE OF BOOTY, LEONUS...
BUT, YOU ARE WILLING TO LET US HELP YOU SMASH THE HULK!

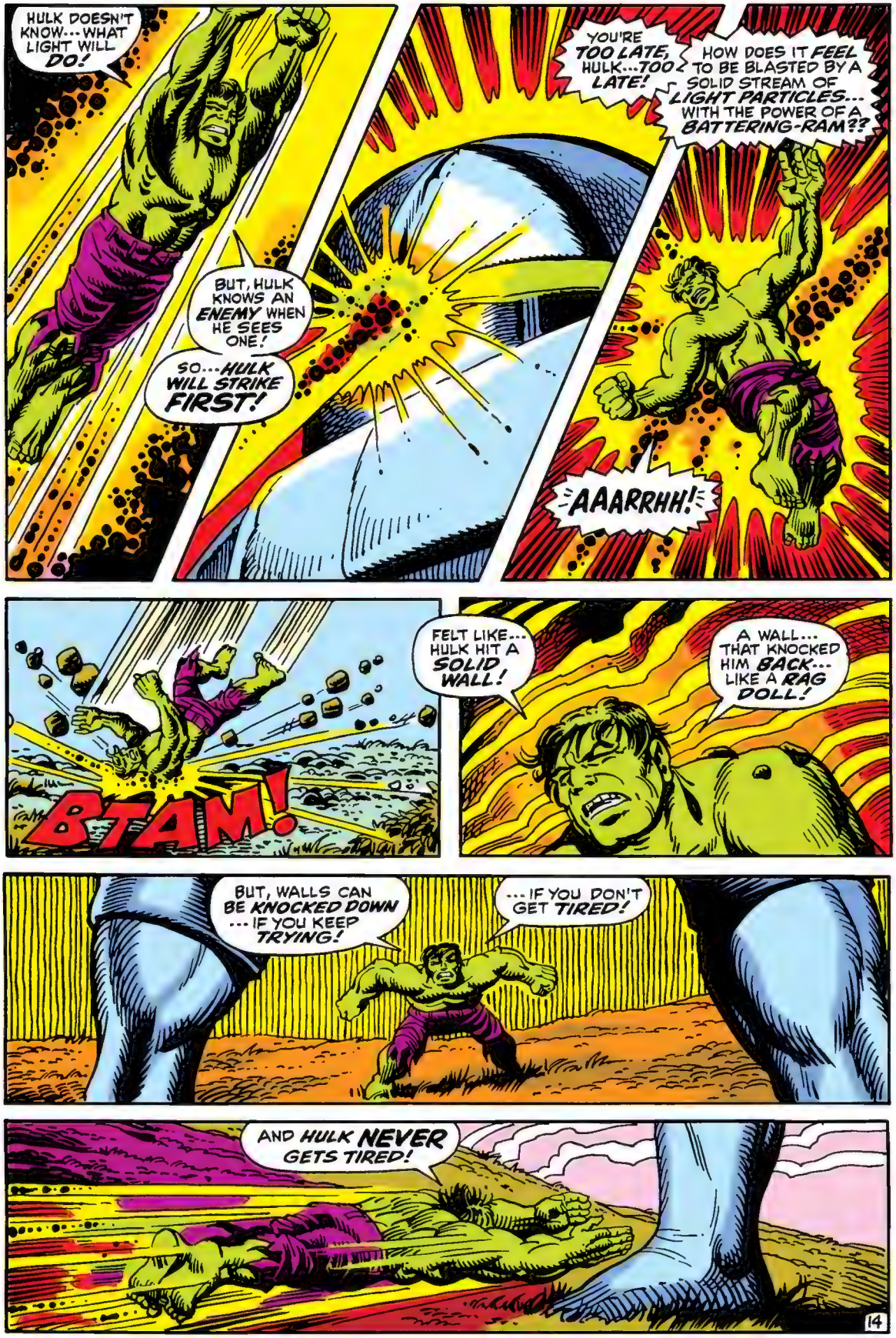
NEBULO!
I HEAR YOUR WHINING VOICE... SEE THE SHADOW THAT IS YOUR ONLY SUBSTANCE!
IF I COULD SEE YOU, I'D PROVE YOU FOR THE LIAR YOU ARE!
DO NOT SNARL BRAVELY AT PHANTOMS, MANED ONE!
STALLIOR HAS FORM AND SUBSTANCE...
AND HE ALSO CALLS YOU... COWARD!
THEN, BE AS QUICK WITH YOUR HOOVES AS YOU ARE WITH YOUR TONGUE...
...OR I'LL SOON SILENCE BOTH!
DESIST!
THIS BICKERING CAN ONLY HELP THOSE WHO WOULD HALT OUR MARCH TO WORLD CONQUEST!
MAXIMUS, TOO, WISHES THE HULK'S DEATH!
BUT, FIRST, HE MUST DESTROY ...THAT AIR-CRAFT!!
HULK! THE ONES WHO ORDERED THE ASSAULT AGAINST US...AGAINST YOU...ARE IN THE PLANE ABOVE!
ATTACK IT... CRUSH IT... SUCH IS THE COMMAND OF MAXIMUS!
COMMAND? YOU SEEK TO COMMAND HULK?
NO ONE TELLS HULK WHEN TO SMASH ...OR WHO TO SMASH!
HULK WILL SMASH THAT PLANE...BUT FOR HIS REASONS...
...NOT FOR YOURS!
BUT, EVEN THE HULK KNOWS...
THE ONES INSIDE THE PLANE... WILL BE JUST AS DEAD!!
9.

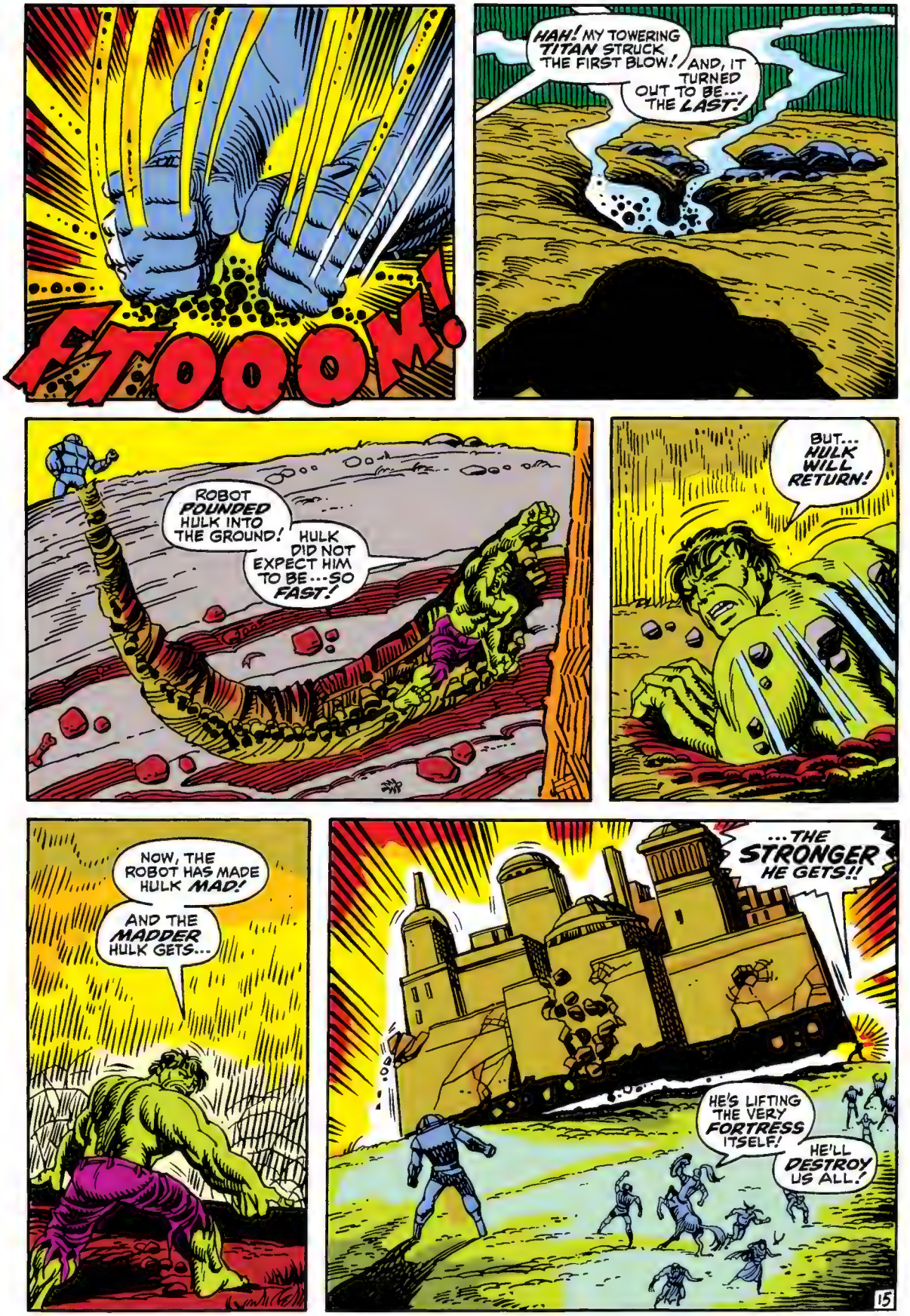

GENERAL ROSS... CONDITION RED!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
THE HULK'S HEADIN' STRAIGHT FOR US!
GOOD LORD!
PILOT...TAKE THIS PLANE UP, FLYBOY... AND FAST!
WE'RE ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH ...THE HULK!
IT'S TOO LATE...TOO LATE FOR ANY OF US!
HE'S GOING TO STRIKE US... NOW!
IS IT THE WIND, HULK...IS IT THE CURRENTS AND GUSTS THAT WHIP THE AIR SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET ABOVE THE GROUND..
...OR IS IT THE SIGHT OF A GIRL'S FACE AT THE WINDOW... A FACE HALF-REMEMBERED SOMEWHERE IN THE DEPTHS OF A TORTURED BRAIN...
SKRAPP!
...THAT ALMOST MAKES YOU MISS THE WILDLY CAREENING PLANE??
USAF
WE'RE HIT!
THAT MONSTER TOOK OUR WING OFF...LIKE A SLICE OF BUTTER!
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW, TALBOT...
...WHILE YOU HELP BETTY INTO HER 'CHUTE!
HURRY, MAN...WE'RE DROPPING LIKE A ROCK!

IT IS OVER!
WE HAVE WON OUR BATTLE!
THE LAST OF OUR ENEMIES DROP INTO OUR WAITING HANDS---
AND SOON, THE TIME SHALL COME WHEN WE CAN DISPOSE OF THE MINDLESS, LUMBERING HULK!!
THWUMP!
---AT LEAST--- WE MANAGED TO FLEE THE BURNING PLANE!
BUT--- BETTY--- WHERE IS MY DAUGHTER??
IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO HER---!
SHE'S ALL RIGHT, GENERAL--- SHE'S HERE WITH ME!
BUT--- WHO IS THAT---
---COMING TOWARDS US?
NOW, YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE--- MAXIMUS THE MAGNIFICENT!
NOW, HE IS BUT ANOTHER FACE, AMONG COUNTLESS FACES ON AN OVER-POPULATED PLANET!
YET, IT WAS TRULY MAXIMUS--- NOT THE BLUNDERING HULK--- WHO DEFEATED YOU!
AND, IT IS MAXIMUS WHOM THE PITIFUL WORLD OF HUMANS SOON SHALL KNOW--- AND FEAR!

BUT, THAT TIME IS NOT YET RIPE!
FIRST, I MUST CONSOLIDATE MY GAINS IN COSTA SALVADOR...WHILE THE WORLD WITHOUT BASKS IN IGNORANCE!
AND SO, YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MUST ...DIE!!
NO!
HULK HELPED YOU...AGAINST THE ARMY THAT HOUNDED US BOTH!
BUT, THERE WILL BE NO KILLING!
YOU!
YOU BRAINLESS, BLUDGEONING FOOL!
DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT WE COULD EVER BE ALLIES?
DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT MAXIMUS DID NOT EXPECT YOU TO OPPOSE HIM...
...OR THAT HE IS NOT PREPARED??
LOOK, HULK, AT THE MINISCULE DEVICE IN THE PALM OF MY HAND!
LISTEN TO THE FAINT, SHARP SOUND AS I ACTIVATE IT...
KLIKK!
FOR, IT IS THE SOUND OF...DEATH!!
RUMMBB
ANOTHER SOUND...BEHIND ME...
COMING FROM...THE VILLAGE..!
12.

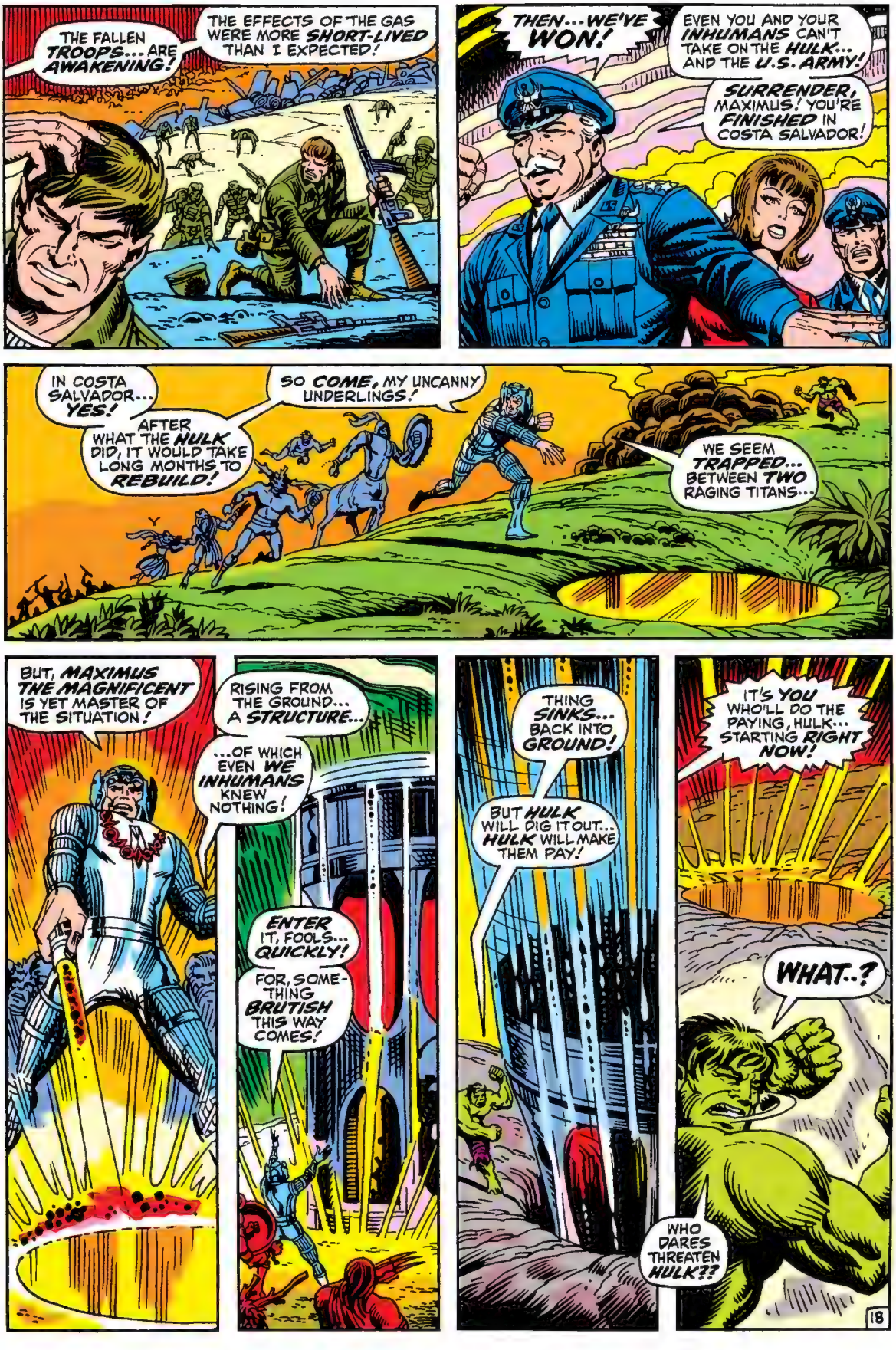

YOU NEEDN'T LOOK THAT FAR, MONSTER!
THWUMP!
THWUMP!
THWUMP!
JUST TURN YOUR GAZE TO MY FORTRESS DOOR---
...THAT DOOR WHICH, EVEN NOW, BEGINS TO BUCKLE BENEATH THE HAMMERING BLOWS RAINED UPON IT BY---
KRAASH!
...THE MOST DEADLY ROBOT OF ALL!
THIS PROTOTYPE OF THE STATUE WHICH STANDS MOTIONLESS IN THE CITY SQUARE...
...IS IN TRUTH A LIVING, SHATTERING ENTITY!
DESTROY HIM, ROBOT... DESTROY THE HULK!
BEACON LIGHT...IN HEAD OF ROBOT... BEGINS TO GLOW...
..BRIGHTER...
BRIGHTER!!
13

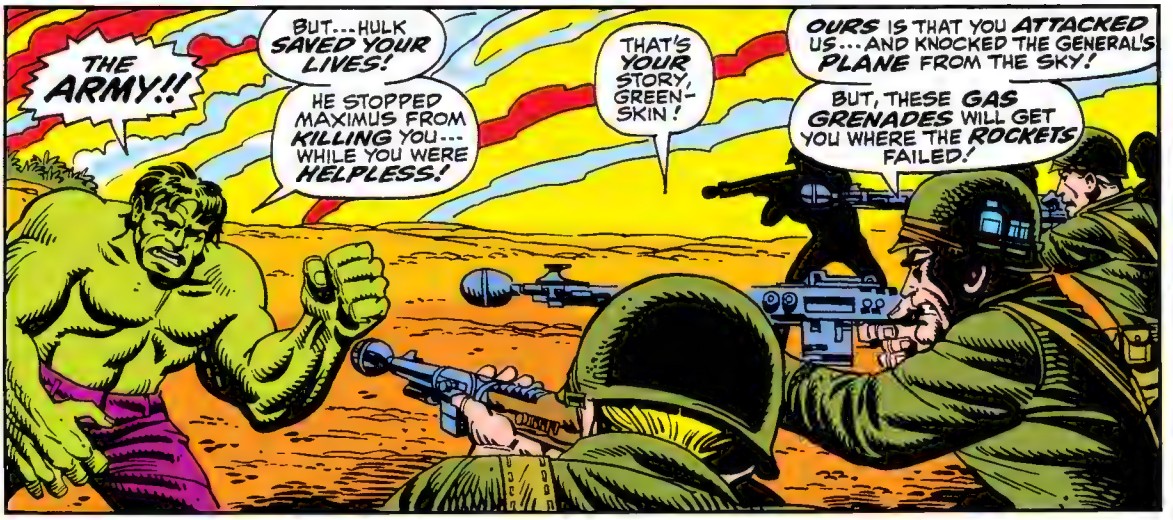

HULK DOESN'T KNOW--- WHAT LIGHT WILL DO!
BUT, HULK KNOWS AN ENEMY WHEN HE SEES ONE!
SO---HULK WILL STRIKE FIRST!
YOU'RE TOO LATE, HULK---TOO LATE!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE BLASTED BY A SOLID STREAM OF LIGHT PARTICLES--- WITH THE POWER OF A BATTERING-RAM??
AAARRHH!
BTAM!
FELT LIKE--- HULK HIT A SOLID WALL!
A WALL--- THAT KNOCKED HIM BACK--- LIKE A RAG DOLL!
BUT, WALLS CAN BE KNOCKED DOWN --- IF YOU KEEP TRYING!
--- IF YOU DON'T GET TIRED!
AND HULK NEVER GETS TIRED!


FTOOOM!
HAH! MY TOWERING TITAN STRUCK THE FIRST BLOW!
AND, IT TURNED OUT TO BE... THE LAST!
ROBOT POUNDED HULK INTO THE GROUND!
HULK DID NOT EXPECT HIM TO BE...SO FAST!
BUT... HULK WILL RETURN!
NOW, THE ROBOT HAS MADE HULK MAD!
AND THE MADDER HULK GETS...
...THE STRONGER HE GETS!!
HE'S LIFTING THE VERY FORTRESS ITSELF!
HE'LL DESTROY US ALL!
15

YOU ARE WRONG, STALLIOR! LOOK AGAIN, AND YOU SHALL SEE...
...THAT THE GREEN-SKINNED FOOL HAS BUT RAISED...
...HIS OWN TOMB-STONE!
UNNHHH!
LIGHTS HURTS HULK... MAKES HIM WEAK!
...TOO WEAK...TO HOLD UP FORTRESS ...FOR LONG...!
THAT'S IT, YOU SIMPLE SAVAGE!
LET THE STRUCTURE FALL... ABOUT YOUR BRAINLESS SKULL!
THIS STUD ON MY GLOVE WILL INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF THE LIGHT-BEAM...AND PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY!
NO!
HULK WILL NOT STOP FIGHTING... NOT EVER!
IT'S... BEYOND BELIEF!
HE'S STILL STANDING!
MUST GENERATE MORE POWER...
MORE!!
GIVE UP, HULK! YOU MUST GIVE UP!
ONLY THEN SHALL YOU KNOW THE PEACE OF ...DEATH!
NO!
HULK WILL NOT GIVE UP!
HE CAN NEVER GIVE UP!
BECAUSE...

THRRUTTCH!
...HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW!!
ROBOT IS BURIED... FOR GOOD!
HULK HAS PROVED AGAIN...
HE IS STRONGER THAN ANY-ONE..ANY-THING!
YOU THUNDERING CLOD!
YOU HAVE UNDONE THE WORK OF MONTHS... THE SECRET PREPARATIONS OF YEARS!
BUT, MAXIMUS HAS OTHER MEANS TO DESTROY YOU... AND NOW...
MAXIMUS ...WAIT!
WHO DARES INTERRUPT MAXIMUS THE MAGN..?
HOLD! WHAT IS THIS I SEE BEFORE ME??
17.


THE FALLEN TROOPS... ARE AWAKENING!
THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS WERE MORE SHORT-LIVED THAN I EXPECTED!
THEN... WE'VE WON!
EVEN YOU AND YOUR INHUMANS CAN'T TAKE ON THE HULK... AND THE U.S. ARMY!
SURRENDER, MAXIMUS! YOU'RE FINISHED IN COSTA SALVADOR!
IN COSTA SALVADOR... YES!
AFTER WHAT THE HULK DID, IT WOULD TAKE LONG MONTHS TO REBUILD!
SO COME, MY UNCANNY UNDERLINGS!
WE SEEM TRAPPED... BETWEEN TWO RAGING TITANS...
BUT, MAXIMUS THE MAGNIFICENT IS YET MASTER OF THE SITUATION!
RISING FROM THE GROUND... A STRUCTURE...
...OF WHICH EVEN WE INHUMANS KNEW NOTHING!
ENTER IT, FOOLS... QUICKLY!
FOR, SOMETHING BRUTISH THIS WAY COMES!
THING SINKS... BACK INTO GROUND!
BUT HULK WILL DIG IT OUT... HULK WILL MAKE THEM PAY!
IT'S YOU WHO'LL DO THE PAYING, HULK... STARTING RIGHT NOW!
WHAT..?
WHO DARES THREATEN HULK??
18


THE ARMY!!
BUT...HULK SAVED YOUR LIVES!
HE STOPPED MAXIMUS FROM KILLING YOU--- WHILE YOU WERE HELPLESS!
THAT'S YOUR STORY, GREEN-SKIN!
OURS IS THAT YOU ATTACKED US...AND KNOCKED THE GENERAL'S PLANE FROM THE SKY!
BUT, THESE GAS GRENADES WILL GET YOU WHERE THE ROCKETS FAILED!

YOU KNOW IT, SOLDIER!
IT'S TOO CLOSE-RANGE FOR HIS HAND-CLAPPING ROUTINE TO SAVE HIM THIS TIME!
IF HE MAKES A MOVE... FIRE!

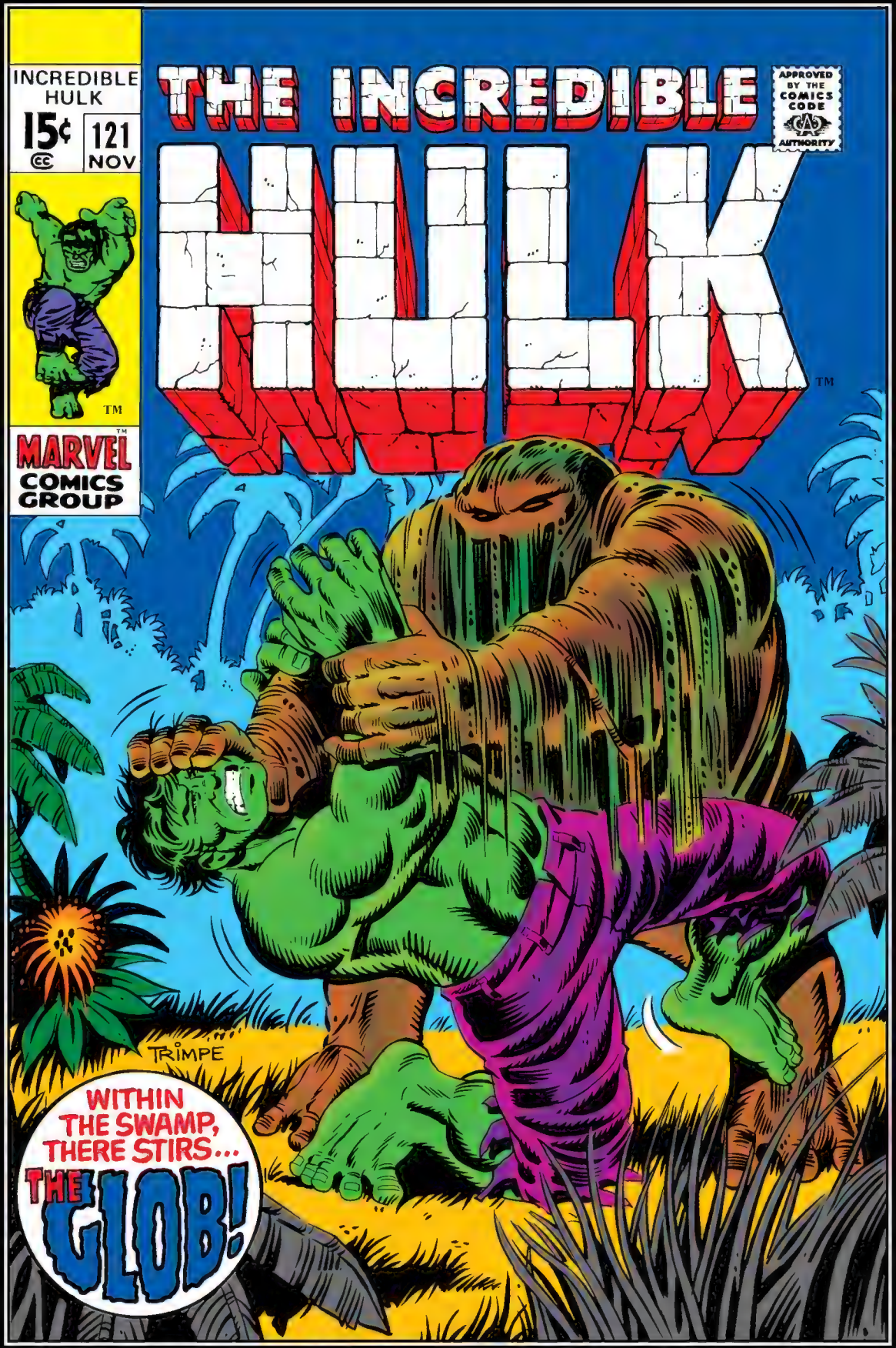
STOP, FATHER...YOU MUSTN'T!!
BETTY! FOR THE LAST TIME, DAUGHTER...
KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF ARMY BUSINESS...
OR I'LL HAVE YOU CONFINED TO QUARTERS!

BUT...THERE'S A SPARK OF BRUCE BANNER STILL ALIVE IN THE HULK!
IF THAT'S TRUE, GIRL, WE'LL FIND IT OUT!
THAT'S WHY HE TRIED TO PROTECT US..!
BUT FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO CAP-TURE HIM..!

CAPTURE?
NO!!
HULK HAS BEEN IN CHAINS BEFORE!
BEFORE HE IS CHAINED AGAIN... HE WILL DESTROY THE ARMY...THE WORLD..!

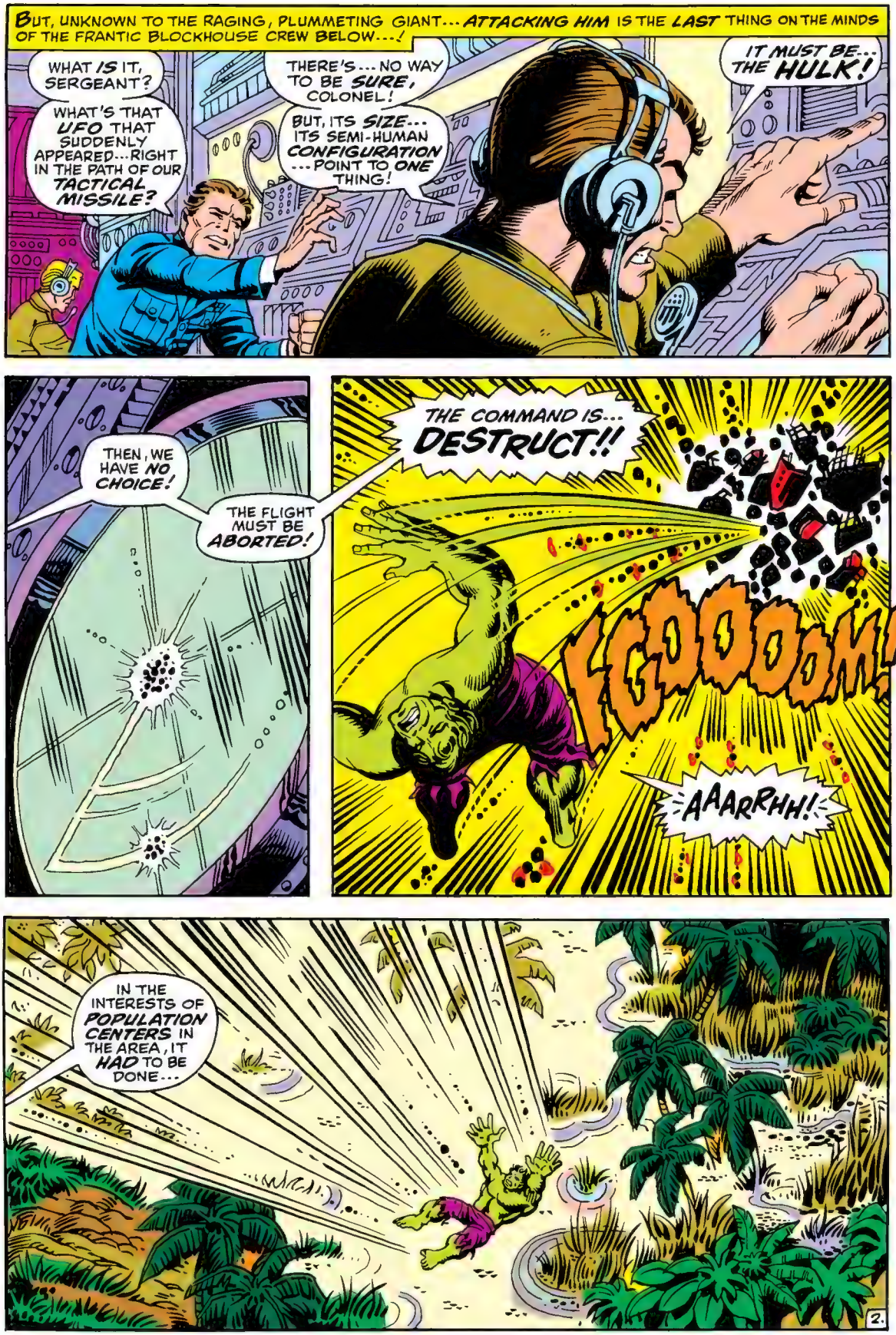
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, BETTY!
HE'S A SOULLESS, GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER---AND NOTHING MORE!
READY, MEN... AIM...

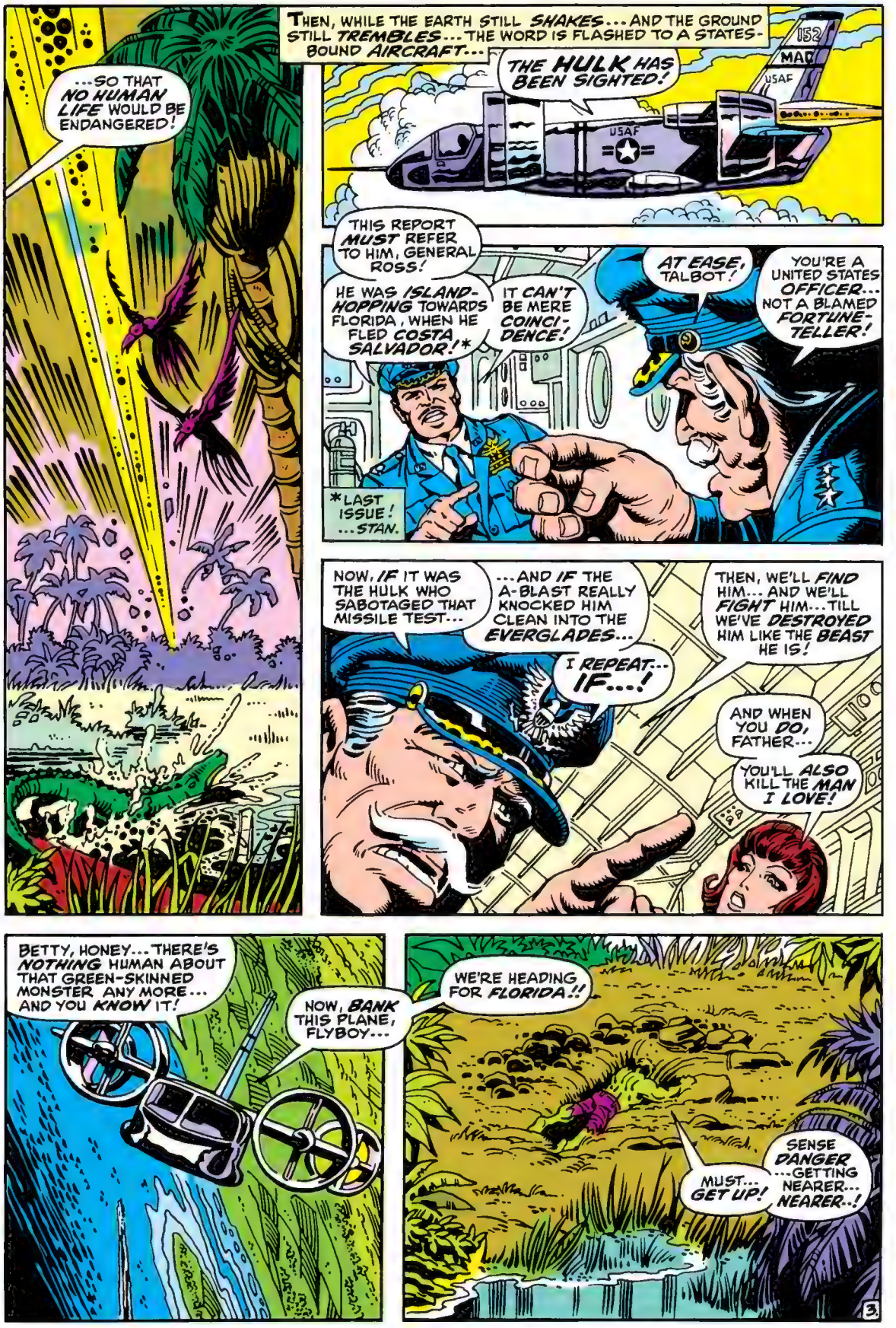
FI--
WHAT IN JUMPING BLUE BLAZES..?
THE GROUND BENEATH US, SIR... IT'S QUAKING!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT WON'T SAVE THE HULK!
FIRE, YOU DOG-FACES!
WE..WE CAN'T, SIR!
GROUND'S SHAKING SO HARD...WE CAN'T EVEN KEEP OUR BALANCE...!
LOOK...LOOK OVER THERE!
COMING OUT OF THE SPOT WHERE MAXIMUS VANISHED...
VROOOOOOOOOOM
YES... MAXIMUS!
MAXIMUS IS ESCAPING... IN ROCKET!
HE'S ESCAPING... AT THE SPEED OF SOUND!
WHOOOOOOSH
HE DOESN'T MATTER, GENERAL ROSS!
AT LEAST WE'VE STILL GOT...THE HULK!
NO ONE HAS HULK! NO ONE!
HULK TRIED TO DO THE RIGHT THING...
BUT NO ONE CARES... NO ONE LISTENS!
SO...HULK IS THRU WITH HUMANS... ALL HUMANS!
HULK WILL GO WHERE HUMANS WILL NEVER FIND HIM!
THOOOOOOM!
NEVER!!
GO WHERE YOU WANT...HIDE WHERE YOU WILL...
YOU WON'T ESCAPE THUNDER-BOLT ROSS ...NOT FOREVER!
WE'LL SEEK HIM OUT, SIR!
WE'LL NEVER REST... TILL WE'VE DESTROYED THE HULK!
AND WHEN YOU DO, YOU'LL ALSO KILL...
...THE MAN I... LOVE...!
NEXT
WHAT LURKS... WITHIN THE SWAMP?


INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
121
NOV
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TRIMPE
WITHIN THE SWAMP, THERE STIRS...
THE GLOB!

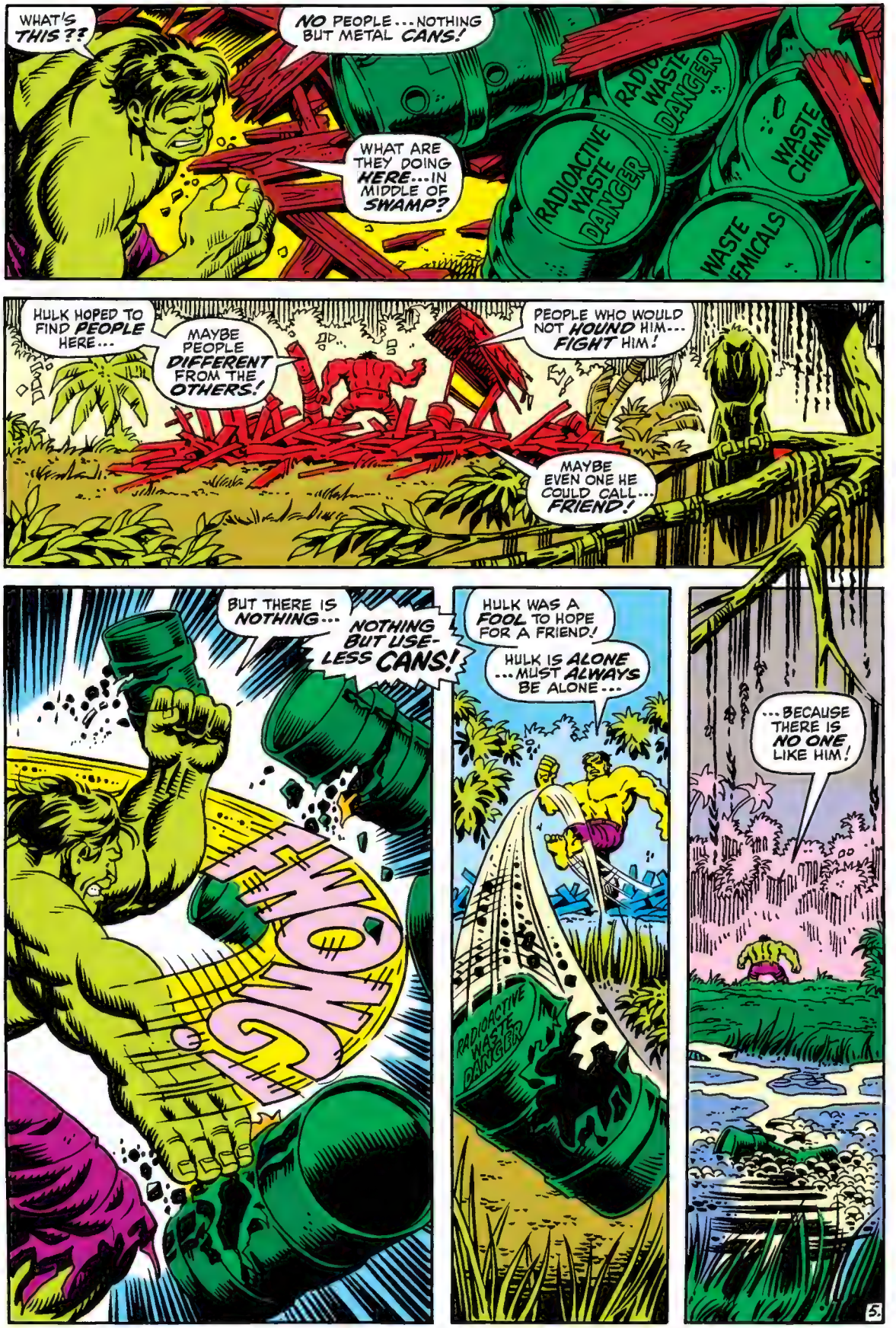
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

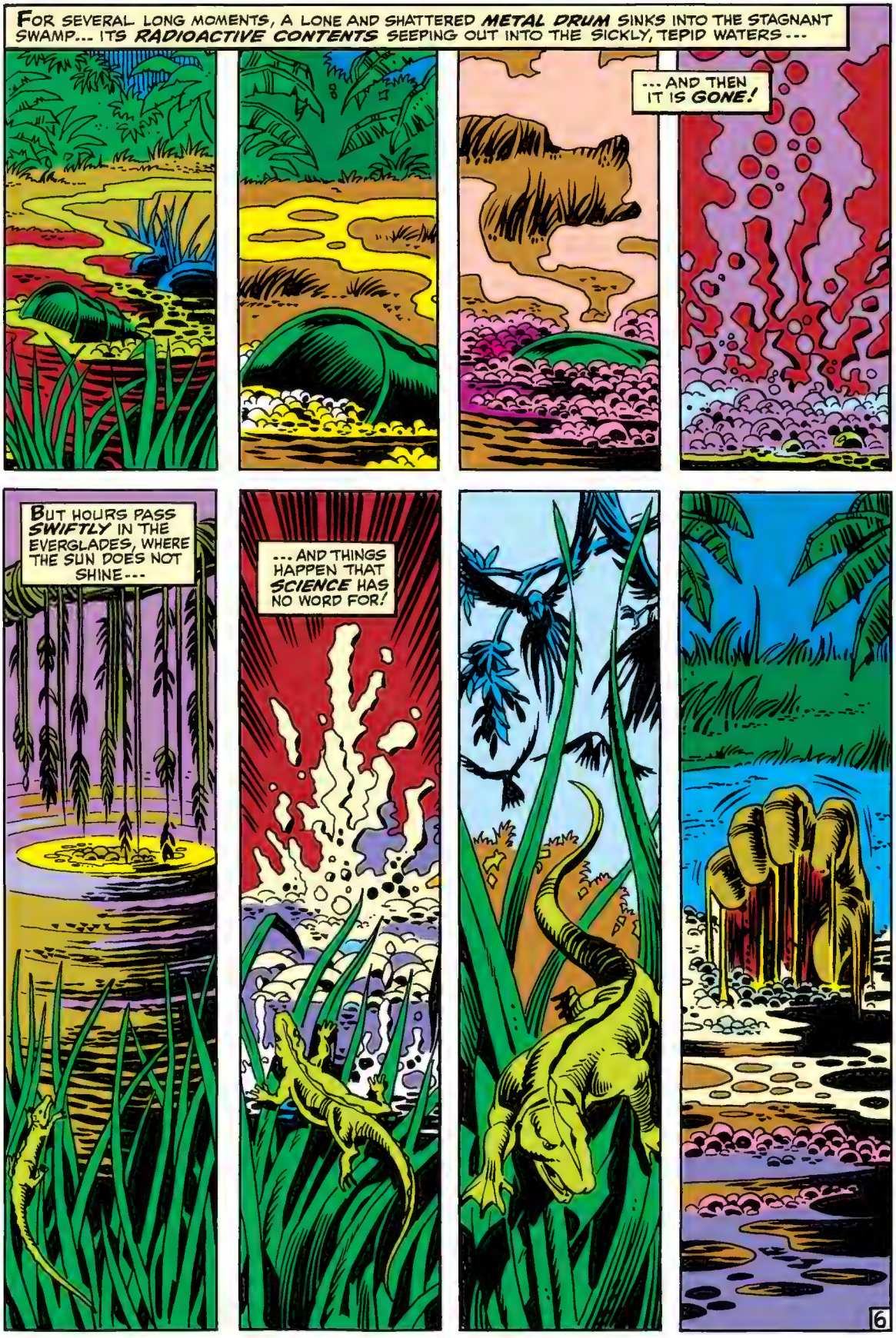
WITHIN THE SWAMP, THERE STIRS...
A GLOB!
MAYBE HERE... IN THE PLACE CALLED FLORIDA...
HULK CAN FIND THE QUIET HE WANTS!
WAIT! A ROCKET FLIES UP AT ME... FROM THE GROUND BELOW!
WHY WON'T THEY LEAVE HULK ALONE? WHY??
STAN LEE PRESENTS A MONUMENTAL MONSTER RALLY BY: ROY THOMAS WRITER and HERB TRIMPE ARTIST!
SAM ROSEN LETTERER


BUT, UNKNOWN TO THE RAGING, PLUMMETING GIANT... ATTACKING HIM IS THE LAST THING ON THE MINDS OF THE FRANTIC BLOCKHOUSE CREW BELOW...!
WHAT IS IT, SERGEANT?
WHAT'S THAT UFO THAT SUDDENLY APPEARED... RIGHT IN THE PATH OF OUR TACTICAL MISSILE?
THERE'S... NO WAY TO BE SURE, COLONEL!
BUT, ITS SIZE... ITS SEMI-HUMAN CONFIGURATION ...POINT TO ONE THING!
IT MUST BE... THE HULK!
THEN, WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
THE FLIGHT MUST BE ABORTED!
THE COMMAND IS... DESTRUCT!!
KOOOOM!
AAARRHH!
IN THE INTERESTS OF POPULATION CENTERS IN THE AREA, IT HAD TO BE DONE...
2.


...SO THAT NO HUMAN LIFE WOULD BE ENDANGERED!
THEN, WHILE THE EARTH STILL SHAKES... AND THE GROUND STILL TREMBLES... THE WORD IS FLASHED TO A STATES-BOUND AIRCRAFT...
THE HULK HAS BEEN SIGHTED!
152
MAC
USAF
USAF
THIS REPORT MUST REFER TO HIM, GENERAL ROSS!
HE WAS ISLAND-HOPPING TOWARDS FLORIDA, WHEN HE FLED COSTA SALVADOR!*
IT CAN'T BE MERE COINCI-DENCE!
AT EASE, TALBOT!
YOU'RE A UNITED STATES OFFICER... NOT A BLAMED FORTUNE-TELLER!
*LAST ISSUE! ...STAN.
NOW, IF IT WAS THE HULK WHO SABOTAGED THAT MISSILE TEST...
...AND IF THE A-BLAST REALLY KNOCKED HIM CLEAN INTO THE EVERGLADES...
I REPEAT... IF...!
THEN, WE'LL FIND HIM... AND WE'LL FIGHT HIM... TILL WE'VE DESTROYED HIM LIKE THE BEAST HE IS!
AND WHEN YOU DO, FATHER...
YOU'LL ALSO KILL THE MAN I LOVE!
BETTY, HONEY... THERE'S NOTHING HUMAN ABOUT THAT GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER ANY MORE... AND YOU KNOW IT!
NOW, BANK THIS PLANE, FLYBOY...
WE'RE HEADING FOR FLORIDA!!
SENSE DANGER ...GETTING NEARER... NEARER..!
MUST... GET UP!
3.

BUT, WHAT KIND OF DANGER... HULK DOESN'T KNOW!
WHY IS IT ALWAYS SO HARD FOR HULK TO THINK?
HULK DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER... WHERE HE IS... HOW HE GOT HERE!
WAIT! OVER THERE...!
AN OLD SHACK!
PEOPLE MUST DWELL THERE!
THEY WILL TELL HULK WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW!
HULK WILL LEAP OVER TO IT, AND... NO!
LEG HURTS! CAN'T JUMP!
ROCKET DID IT! REMEMBER SOMETHING... ABOUT A ROCKET!
THEN HULK WILL WALK TO SHACK!
WHAT'S THAT... ON SIDE OF SHACK?
PROPERTY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT KEEP OUT! DANGER!
EVERYWHERE HE GOES...
THERE ARE SYMBOLS THAT HULK CAN'T READ!
BUT, HULK DOES NOT NEED TO READ... DOES NOT NEED ANYTHING!
SKRAAAK!
NOT WHILE HIS IS THE GREATEST STRENGTH OF ALL!!
4

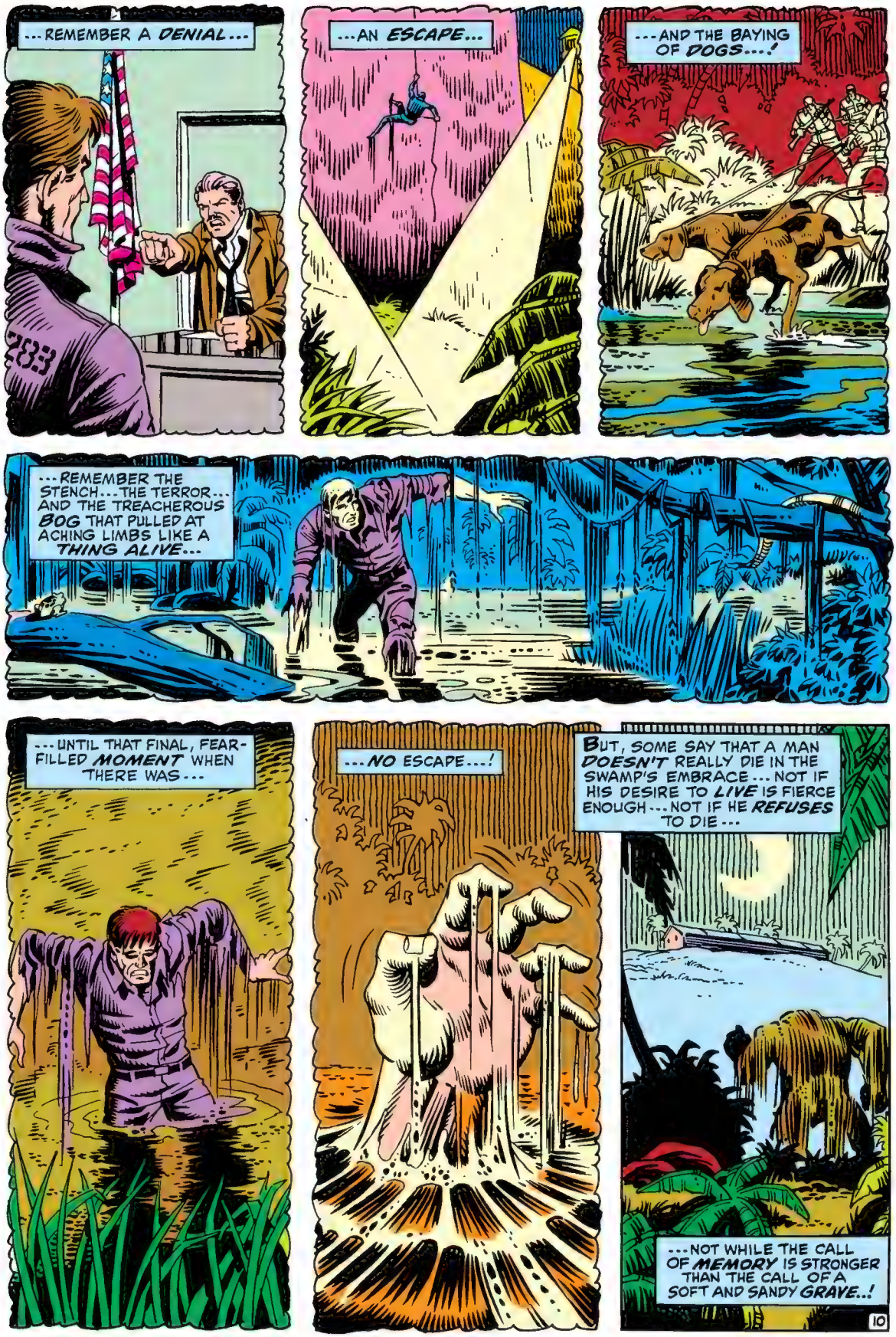

WHAT'S THIS?!
NO PEOPLE...NOTHING BUT METAL CANS!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE...IN MIDDLE OF SWAMP?
RADIOACTIVE WASTE DANGER
WASTE CHEMICALS
HULK HOPED TO FIND PEOPLE HERE...
MAYBE PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS!
PEOPLE WHO WOULD NOT HOUND HIM... FIGHT HIM!
MAYBE EVEN ONE HE COULD CALL... FRIEND!
BUT THERE IS NOTHING...
NOTHING BUT USE-LESS CANS!
HULK WAS A FOOL TO HOPE FOR A FRIEND!
HULK IS ALONE ...MUST ALWAYS BE ALONE...
...BECAUSE THERE IS NO ONE LIKE HIM!
5.

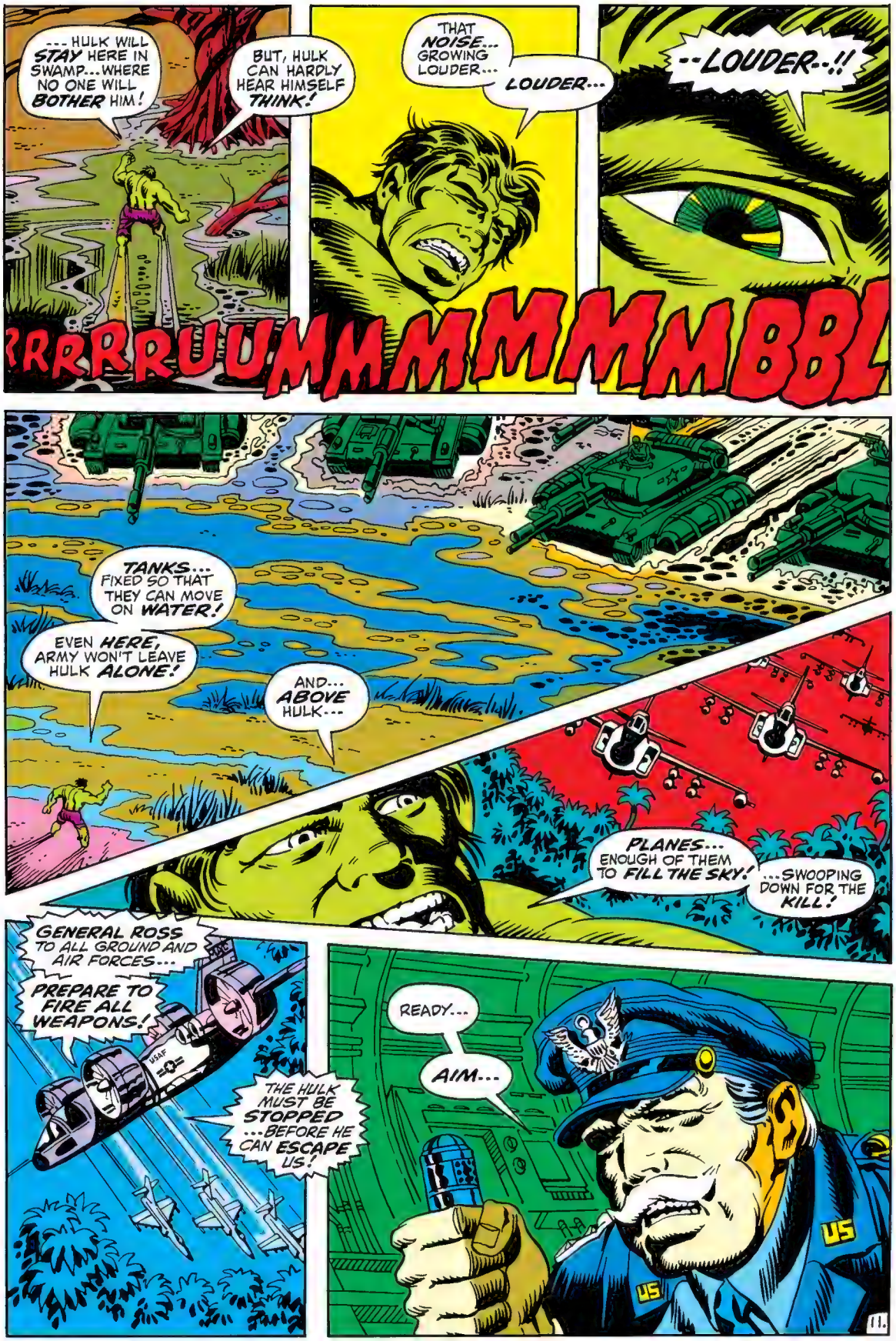

FOR SEVERAL LONG MOMENTS, A LONE AND SHATTERED METAL DRUM SINKS INTO THE STAGNANT SWAMP... ITS RADIOACTIVE CONTENTS SEEPING OUT INTO THE SICKLY, TEPID WATERS ---
--- AND THEN IT IS GONE!
BUT HOURS PASS SWIFTLY IN THE EVERGLADES, WHERE THE SUN DOES NOT SHINE ---
--- AND THINGS HAPPEN THAT SCIENCE HAS NO WORD FOR!
6

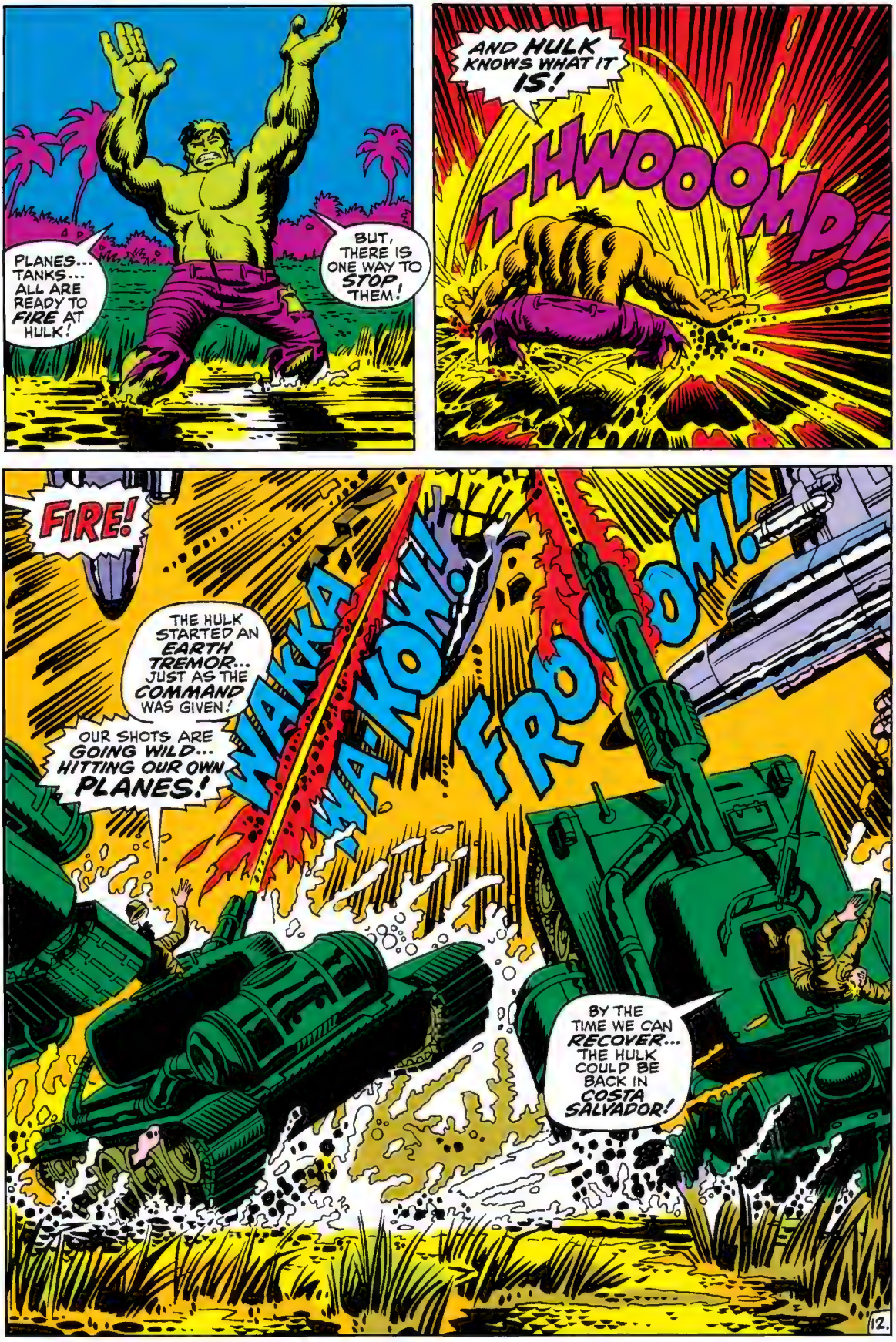
FOR, SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE AGELESS QUAGMIRE... OUT OF THAT MARSH WHICH WAS OLD WHEN TIME WAS YOUNG... THERE HEAVES AND LUMBERS A LOATHSOME ENTITY WHICH IS AT ONE WITH THE VINE-LOCKED MORASS... WHICH IS A PART OF THE SUN-BEREFT BOG...!
NAME? IT HAS NO NAME, NOR NEED FOR ANY! BUT, IF NAME IT YOU MUST, THEN CALL IT SHAPE...OR HEAP... ...OR MASS... OR SIMPLY...
GLOB!

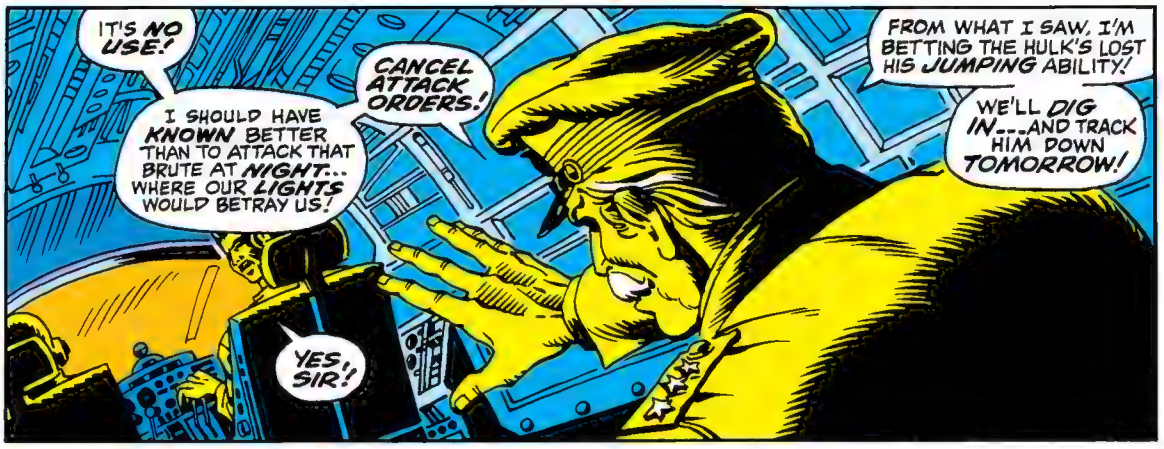
...THE HEAVY ARMOR CAN GO NO FARTHER INTO THE 'GLADES, SIR...
IF THE HULK IS IN THERE, WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM TO COME TO US!
LIKE BLAZES WE WILL!
SOMEHOW... SOME WAY... WE'LL GET AT THAT BRUTE! WE'VE GOT TO!
IF ONLY WE COULD BE SURE HE'S IN THERE!
AFFIRMATIVE, GENERAL ROSS!
I'M GETTING A REPORT NOW FROM OUR ADVANCE SCOUTS!
WELL, SPILL IT, SOLDIER!
...YESSIR, IT'S HIM ALL RIGHT, SIR!
WHAT ELSE IS BIG, GREEN, AND UGLY...AND WALKS LIKE IT COULDN'T CARE LESS IF IT STEPPED ON A 'GATOR?
NOSSIR... I DIDN'T MEAN IT AS A RIDDLE, SIR...!
ALL RIGHT! NOW, WE'VE GOT A FIX ON THAT MURDERING BRUTE!
I WANT THAT AREA SURROUNDED...IN AS TIGHT A CIRCLE AS THE TANKS CAN MANAGE!
THEN, I'M SENDING TO THE CAPE...FOR SOME SPECIAL NEW EQUIPMENT THEY'VE GOT THERE!
YES, SIR! BUT, BEFORE WE ATTACK...
MAY I RECOMMEND THAT WE REMOVE BETTY TO A SAFE PLACE?
NO! I WON'T GO!
I MUST BE WITH YOU... WHEN...
8

TALBOT'S RIGHT, BETTY!
I'VE ALREADY ORDERED THE PILOT TO LAND!
YOU'LL STAY BEHIND --- AT THAT RESORT BELOW!
GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE GIVEN UP ARGUING, DAUGHTER!
BUT, JUST IN CASE YOU'VE GOT ANY IDEAS ABOUT REJOINING OUR TASK FORCE---
THE MAJOR WILL SEE YOU TO YOUR ROOM!
AND SEE THAT SHE STAYS THERE, TALBOT!
IF SHE GETS INVOLVED IN ANY OF THIS--- I'LL HAVE YOUR HIDE ON A PLATTER!
DON'T WORRY, SIR--- SHE'LL BE SAFE AND SOUND!
I SWEAR IT!
GOOD! NOW, FLYBOY--- LET'S GO GET THE HULK!
WHILE, BELOW, DARK AND LIDLESS EYES STARE THRU THE PIT-BLACK NIGHT---
THEY FOCUS, WITH BLURRING SIGHT, ON THE GAY LIGHTS OF THE RESORT--- AND THEY DIMLY REMEMBER---
---REMEMBER A SCENE NOT FAR AWAY IN PLACE--- BUT YEARS DISTANT IN WHAT MEN CALL TIME---!
---REMEMBER A MAN --- A LONELINESS--- A LETTER FROM A WOMAN LOVED, A WOMAN WHO LAY DYING---!


...REMEMBER A DENIAL...
...AN ESCAPE...
...AND THE BAYING OF DOGS...!
...REMEMBER THE STENCH...THE TERROR... AND THE TREACHEROUS BOG THAT PULLED AT ACHING LIMBS LIKE A THING ALIVE...
...UNTIL THAT FINAL, FEAR-FILLED MOMENT WHEN THERE WAS...
...NO ESCAPE...!
BUT, SOME SAY THAT A MAN DOESN'T REALLY DIE IN THE SWAMP'S EMBRACE...NOT IF HIS DESIRE TO LIVE IS FIERCE ENOUGH...NOT IF HE REFUSES TO DIE...
...NOT WHILE THE CALL OF MEMORY IS STRONGER THAN THE CALL OF A SOFT AND SANDY GRAVE..!
10


--- HULK WILL STAY HERE IN SWAMP... WHERE NO ONE WILL BOTHER HIM!
BUT, HULK CAN HARDLY HEAR HIMSELF THINK!
THAT NOISE... GROWING LOUDER...
LOUDER...
--LOUDER--!!
RRRRUMMMMMMBBL
TANKS... FIXED SO THAT THEY CAN MOVE ON WATER!
EVEN HERE, ARMY WON'T LEAVE HULK ALONE!
AND... ABOVE HULK...
PLANES... ENOUGH OF THEM TO FILL THE SKY!
...SWOOPING DOWN FOR THE KILL!
GENERAL ROSS TO ALL GROUND AND AIR FORCES...
PREPARE TO FIRE ALL WEAPONS!
THE HULK MUST BE STOPPED ...BEFORE HE CAN ESCAPE US!
READY...
AIM...
US
US
11.


PLANES... TANKS... ALL ARE READY TO FIRE AT HULK!
BUT, THERE IS ONE WAY TO STOP THEM!
AND HULK KNOWS WHAT IT IS!
THWOOOMP!
FIRE!
THE HULK STARTED AN EARTH TREMOR... JUST AS THE COMMAND WAS GIVEN!
OUR SHOTS ARE GOING WILD... HITTING OUR OWN PLANES!
WAKA-WA-KOW!
FROOOM!
BY THE TIME WE CAN RECOVER... THE HULK COULD BE BACK IN COSTA SALVADOR!
12.


IT'S NO USE!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO ATTACK THAT BRUTE AT NIGHT... WHERE OUR LIGHTS WOULD BETRAY US!
CANCEL ATTACK ORDERS!
YES, SIR!
FROM WHAT I SAW, I'M BETTING THE HULK'S LOST HIS JUMPING ABILITY!
WE'LL DIG IN...AND TRACK HIM DOWN TOMORROW!

BUT, TOMORROW IS A LONG TIME AWAY... TIME ENOUGH FOR ALMOST ANYTHING TO HAPPEN... ANYTHING...!
I HATE THE SWAMP...HATE BEING NEAR IT!
IT'S AS IF THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE...CALLING TO ME...WAITING FOR ME!

THERE'S NO CALL, BETTY... IT'S JUST YOUR OVER-WROUGHT IMAGINATION!
BUT, I'LL ADMIT THAT THE FEELING IS ALMOST CONTAGIOUS!
EVEN I HALF-EXPECT TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW...AND SEE A GHOST!
NO...NOT A GHOST! SOMETHING... ELSE...!

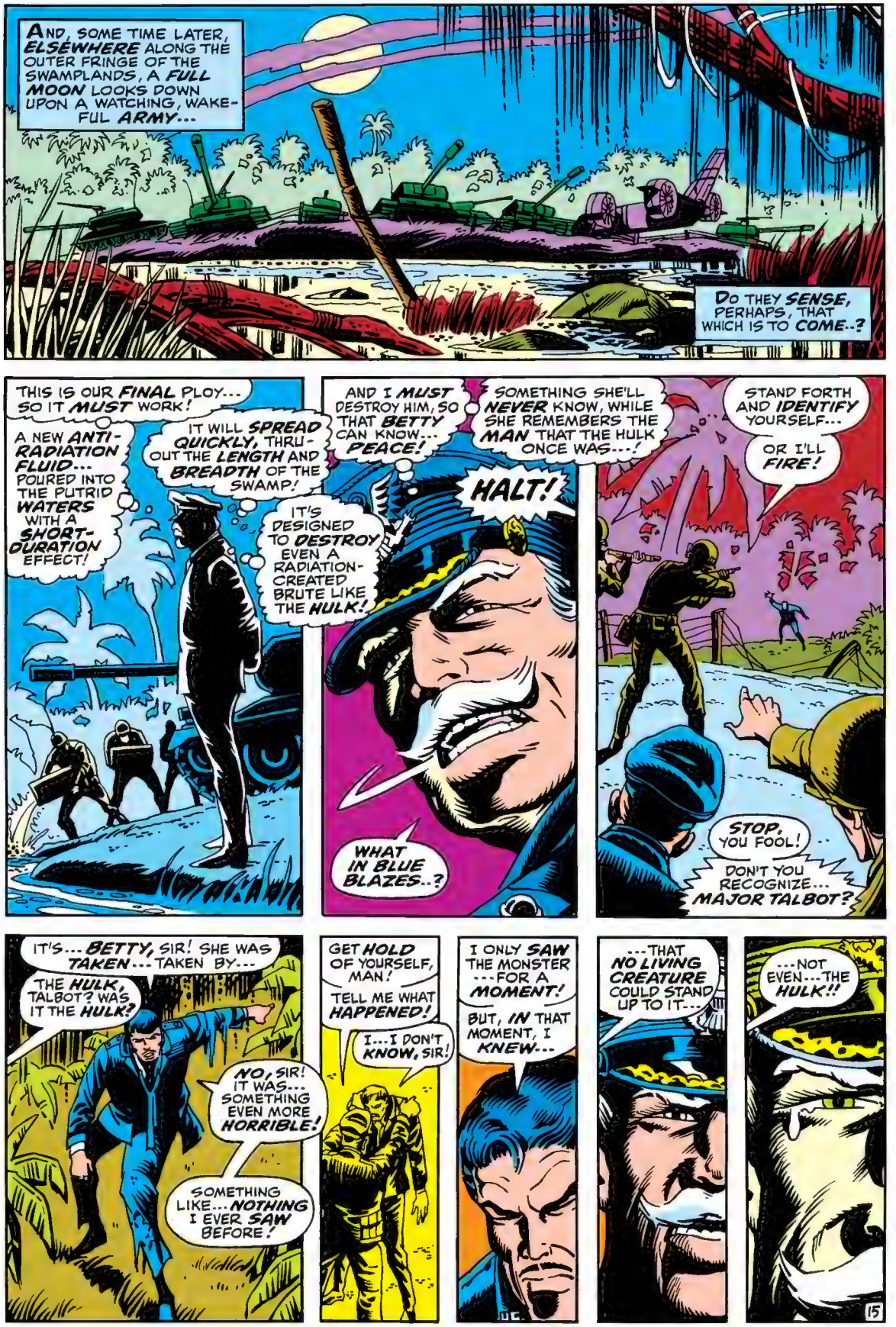
GLENN...LOOK!! AT THE WINDOW!
THERE IS SOMETHING OUT THERE ...SOMETHING HUGE!

IT MUST BE THE HULK!
SOMEWHERE INSIDE HIM, A SPARK OF BRUCE BANNER REMAINS ALIVE!
AND IT LED HIM TO ME... DON'T YOU SEE?
I SEE NOTHING, BETTY!
THERE'S NO ONE AT THE WINDOW, I TELL YOU!
BETTY... DON'T! IF YOU'RE RIGHT... HE'LL KILL YOU!

NO ONE?
THEN, YOU WON'T MIND IF I OPEN THE DOOR...AND SEE FOR MYSELF!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, MAJOR!
THE HULK WOULD NEVER HARM ME...!

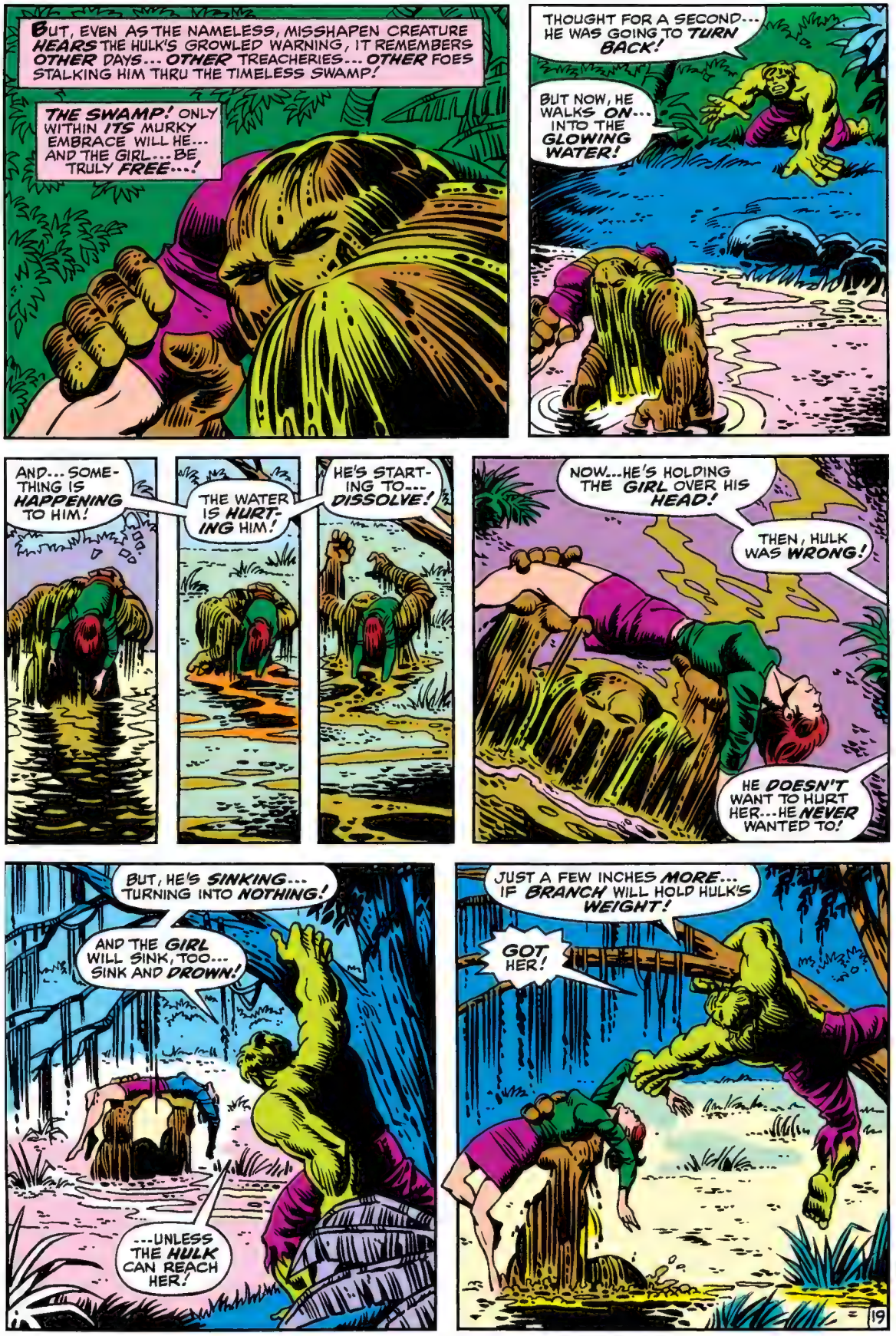
THEN, THE DOOR OPENS... AND, THRU DIMMED AND DREAM-LIT EYES, A CREATURE THAT ONCE WAS A MAN LOOKS ONCE MORE ON THE FORM OF WOMAN...!
NO!
NOOOO!
BETTY--- GET BACK--- GET BACK!
IT ISN'T THE HULK--- IT'S SOMETHING WORSE...
---INCREDIBLY, UNSPEAKABLY WORSE!!
BUT, THE BEHEMOTH DOES NOT HEAR THE MAJOR'S WORDS--- FOR, IT BEHOLDS ONE WOMAN--- AND SEES ANOTHER--- ONE WHO DIED LONG DECADES AGO---!
OHHHH! LET ME GO!
PLEASE--- WHOEVER--- WHATEVER YOU ARE--- LET ME GO!
KRUTCH!
DON'T FIGHT HIM, BETTY!
SOMEHOW--- I CAN SENSE --- HE DOESN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU!
I'LL STOP HIM--- IF I CAN JUST REACH MY GUN!
GLENN--- LOOK OUT!
HE'S TURNING --- TURNING BACK TOWARDS YOU---!
NOOOO!
SKAAK!
AND THEN, NO SOUND IS HEARD --- BY ANYONE!
FOR, THE SWAMP-BORN MONSTER HAS RECLAIMED THE WOMAN HE LOVED--- AND IS GOING--- HOME---!

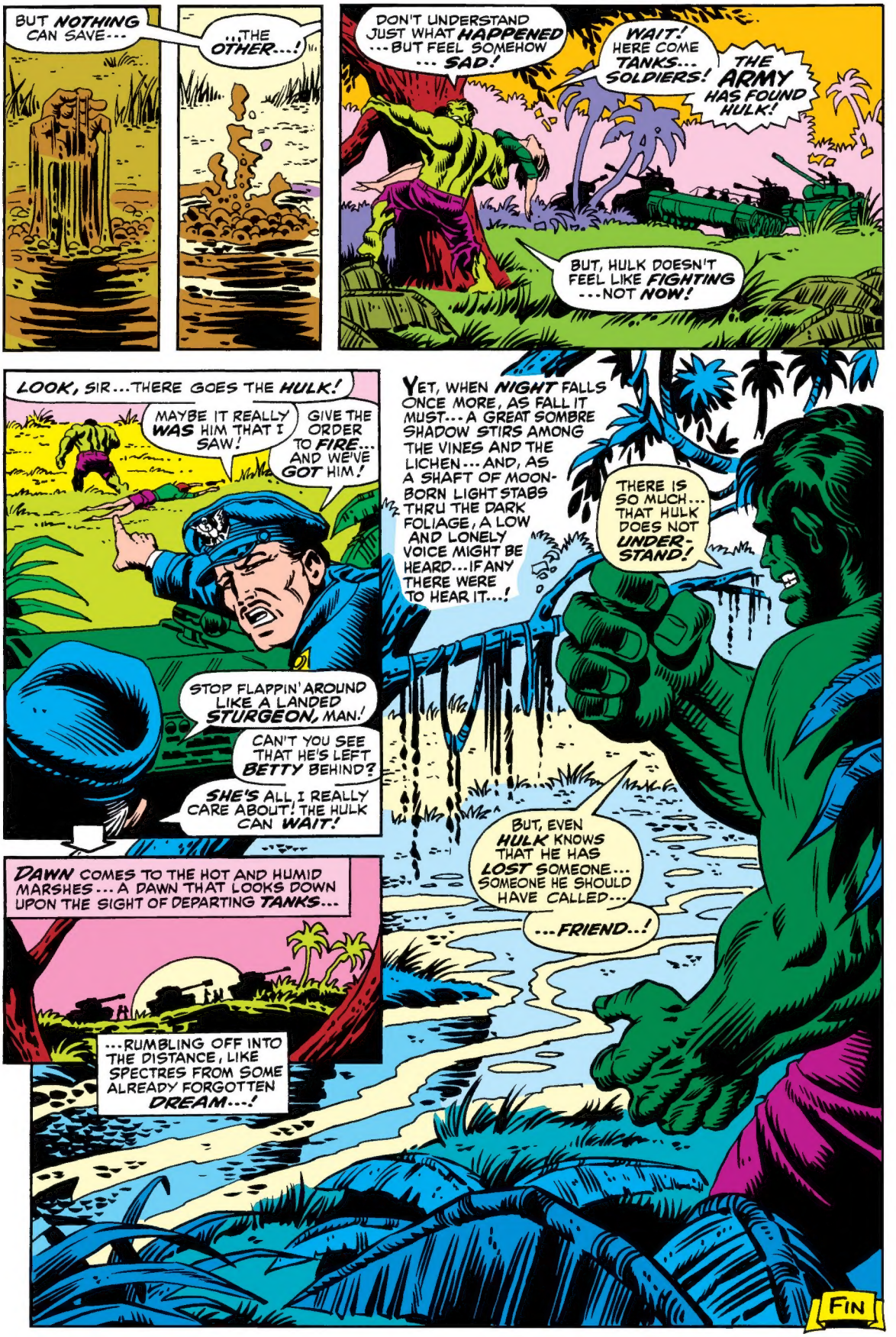

AND, SOME TIME LATER, ELSEWHERE ALONG THE OUTER FRINGE OF THE SWAMPLANDS, A FULL MOON LOOKS DOWN UPON A WATCHING, WAKEFUL ARMY...
DO THEY SENSE, PERHAPS, THAT WHICH IS TO COME..?
THIS IS OUR FINAL PLOY... SO IT MUST WORK!
A NEW ANTI-RADIATION FLUID... POURED INTO THE PUTRID WATERS WITH A SHORT-DURATION EFFECT!
IT WILL SPREAD QUICKLY, THRUOUT THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE SWAMP!
IT'S DESIGNED TO DESTROY EVEN A RADIATION-CREATED BRUTE LIKE THE HULK!
AND I MUST DESTROY HIM, SO THAT BETTY CAN KNOW... PEACE!
SOMETHING SHE'LL NEVER KNOW, WHILE SHE REMEMBERS THE MAN THAT THE HULK ONCE WAS...!
HALT!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES..?
STAND FORTH AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF...
OR I'LL FIRE!
STOP, YOU FOOL!
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE... MAJOR TALBOT?
IT'S... BETTY, SIR! SHE WAS TAKEN... TAKEN BY...
THE HULK, TALBOT? WAS IT THE HULK?
NO, SIR! IT WAS... SOMETHING EVEN MORE HORRIBLE!
SOMETHING LIKE... NOTHING I EVER SAW BEFORE!
GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, MAN!
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
I... I DON'T KNOW, SIR!
I ONLY SAW THE MONSTER ...FOR A MOMENT!
BUT, IN THAT MOMENT, I KNEW...
...THAT NO LIVING CREATURE COULD STAND UP TO IT...
...NOT EVEN... THE HULK!!
15

...NO PEOPLE HERE ...AND THAT'S GOOD!
THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HULK...NO ONE DID!
IF HULK CANNOT HAVE A FRIEND, AT LEAST THEY CAN LEAVE HIM ALONE!
WHAT'S THAT?
HULK JUST HEARD A MUFFLED SOUND... A WHIMPERING VOICE!
IT SOUNDS LIKE...A GIRL HULK ONCE KNEW!
A GIRL NAMED ...BETTY!
IT IS THE GIRL!
BUT, SHE IS BEING CARRIED BY...SOME KIND OF MONSTER!
A MONSTER WHO WANTS TO HARM HER!
NOT LIKE THE HULK!
YOU!
PUT THE GIRL DOWN...
...OR ANSWER TO THE HULK!
THWAK!
FWAK!
SO...YOU SAY NOTHING!
YOU MERELY PUT THE GIRL DOWN...AS HULK SAID...
BUT NOW... YOU GLARE AT ME...LIKE IT IS HULK WHO THREATENS GIRL!
...LIKE IT WAS THE HULK WHO MEANT HER HARM...NOT YOU!
HULK IS CONFUSED... DOES NOT UNDERSTAND!
BUT, WHAT HULK DOES NOT UNDERSTAND...
HE ATTACKS!
16

AND WHAT HULK ATTACKS...
HE DESTROYS!
NO! HULK'S BAD LEG... MADE HIM STUMBLE!
YOU'RE PUSHING ME BACK--- BACK---!
KJH-WHANG!

HULK DOES NOT WANT TO FIGHT YOU!
BUT, YOU WANT TO HURT THE GIRL...
SOMEHOW, HULK SENSES... WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS!
...SO HULK MUST STOP YOU!
SKRUTCH!
WHY DO YOU NOT TALK??
IF ONLY... YOU WOULD SAY SOMETHING...!
AAARRHH!
LEG... GAVE OUT... AGAIN!
BUT, MUST GET UP... BEFORE...
SHROOM!
MONSTER LEAVES ... WITH GIRL!
BUT, THE SWAMP... IT'S GIVING OFF A STRANGE GLOW!
STOP!
FUNNY GLOW... MAY HURT YOU BOTH!
18


BUT, EVEN AS THE NAMELESS, MISSHAPEN CREATURE HEARS THE HULK'S GROWLED WARNING, IT REMEMBERS OTHER DAYS... OTHER TREACHERIES... OTHER FOES STALKING HIM THRU THE TIMELESS SWAMP!
THE SWAMP! ONLY WITHIN ITS MURKY EMBRACE WILL HE... AND THE GIRL... BE TRULY FREE...!
THOUGHT FOR A SECOND... HE WAS GOING TO TURN BACK!
BUT NOW, HE WALKS ON... INTO THE GLOWING WATER!
AND... SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO HIM!
THE WATER IS HURTING HIM!
HE'S STARTING TO... DISSOLVE!
NOW...HE'S HOLDING THE GIRL OVER HIS HEAD!
THEN, HULK WAS WRONG!
HE DOESN'T WANT TO HURT HER...HE NEVER WANTED TO!
BUT, HE'S SINKING... TURNING INTO NOTHING!
AND THE GIRL WILL SINK, TOO... SINK AND DROWN!
...UNLESS THE HULK CAN REACH HER!
JUST A FEW INCHES MORE... IF BRANCH WILL HOLD HULK'S WEIGHT!
GOT HER!
19


BUT NOTHING CAN SAVE---
...THE OTHER...!
DON'T UNDERSTAND JUST WHAT HAPPENED ---BUT FEEL SOMEHOW --- SAD!
WAIT! HERE COME TANKS... SOLDIERS!
THE ARMY HAS FOUND HULK!
BUT, HULK DOESN'T FEEL LIKE FIGHTING ---NOT NOW!
LOOK, SIR...THERE GOES THE HULK!
MAYBE IT REALLY WAS HIM THAT I SAW!
GIVE THE ORDER TO FIRE... AND WE'VE GOT HIM!
STOP FLAPPIN' AROUND LIKE A LANDED STURGEON, MAN!
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S LEFT BETTY BEHIND?
SHE'S ALL I REALLY CARE ABOUT! THE HULK CAN WAIT!
YET, WHEN NIGHT FALLS ONCE MORE, AS FALL IT MUST--- A GREAT SOMBRE SHADOW STIRS AMONG THE VINES AND THE LICHEN--- AND, AS A SHAFT OF MOON-BORN LIGHT STABS THRU THE DARK FOLIAGE, A LOW AND LONELY VOICE MIGHT BE HEARD---IF ANY THERE WERE TO HEAR IT...!
THERE IS SO MUCH... THAT HULK DOES NOT UNDER-STAND!
DAWN COMES TO THE HOT AND HUMID MARSHES--- A DAWN THAT LOOKS DOWN UPON THE SIGHT OF DEPARTING TANKS...
---RUMBLING OFF INTO THE DISTANCE, LIKE SPECTRES FROM SOME ALREADY FORGOTTEN DREAM---!
BUT, EVEN HULK KNOWS THAT HE HAS LOST SOMEONE... SOMEONE HE SHOULD HAVE CALLED---
...FRIEND..!
FIN

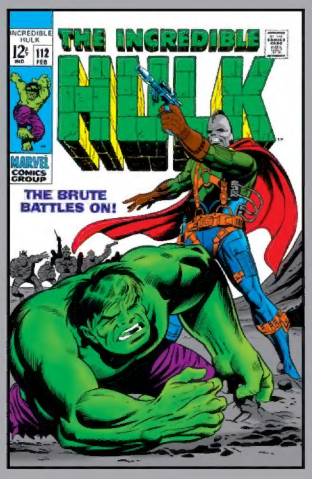
Cover to 1969's all-reprint *The Incredible Hulk Annual* #2

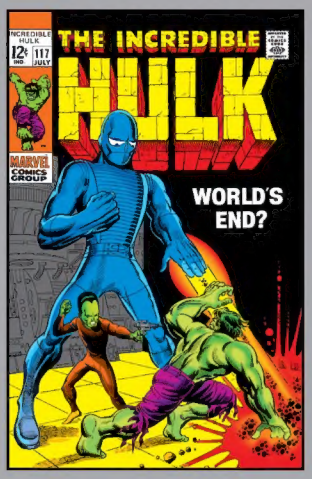
SPECIAL BONUS:

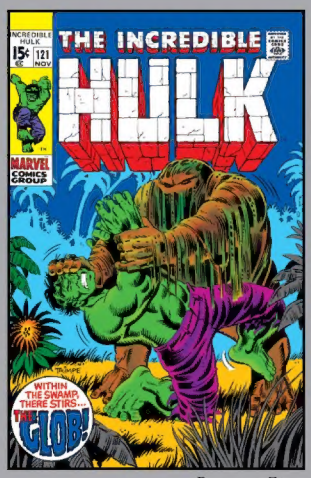
The Incredible Hulk #119 cover color guide

by Marie Severin

Courtesy Heritage Auctions







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